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Kent on Sunday

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Tory anger at government over Dartford Crossing toll work delays

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SENIOR Kent Tories have launched a scathing attack on the Government for letting down hard-hit communities living near the Dartford Crossing by dithering over the introduction of free-flowing tolls.

North Kent politicians claim the reputation of the area has been badly damaged over the years, with visitors put off going there for pleasure and businesses discouraged from investing due to the daily traffic chaos.

Electronic charging was due to be introduced in the coming months to allow traffic to flow freely through the notorious congestion hot-spot instead of stopping at the toll gates, but this has now been delayed until 2014.

Kent County Council's transport chief Cllr Bryan Sweetland called it a "serious hindrance" to economic growth in north Kent.

Next month, drivers will also see charges go up by 50p to £2, despite a lack of improvement to the crossing, which sees more than 50 million vehicles pass through every year.

Tory leader of Dartford Borough Council, Cllr Jeremy Kite, called the situation an "omnishambles".

"If you are talking about locating a business you only have to mention Dartford and people associate it with huge queues," he said.

"Ken Livingstone wanted electronic charging in London and it was in place within a few months.

"They (the Government) have put this back three times to my knowledge and that's only the times I know about.

"This isn't so much to do with the

Continued on page 2

Picture: GARETH FULLER



GOLDEN GIRL

CYCLIST: Sarah Storey celebrates a time trial gold medal at Brands Hatch **SEE INSIDE**

ENTERTAINMENT

Music festivals under a cloud

AFTER a summer of wet weather, a storm cloud has gathered over one of Kent's biggest outdoor events. A combination of the economy, the Olympics and dreary forecasts of rain and more rain, have sent a lightning bolt through the finances of Paddcok Wood's Hop Farm Festival. **PAGE 12**

HORTICULTURE

Garden of the year awards

EXCITEMENT is growing ahead of the awards for the third Kent Life Garden of the Year, and Primary School Garden of the Year, which will be presented at Hadlow College Design Studio during a high-tea ceremony next week. From a strong field, just eight gardens have been selected as finalists. **PAGE 14**

SPORT

Paralympians tackle Brands

THE excitement, the emotion, and the drama – it was all there. Brands Hatch didn't fail to inspire in four days of Paralympic road-cycling action. From Brit Sarah Storey winning gold, to former racing driver Alex Zanardi holding his handbike aloft in celebration, the event was a joy. **PAGE 50**

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LAND ROVER

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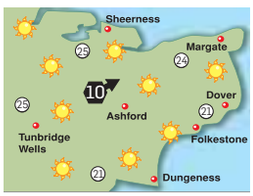
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Weather



TODAY: It will be fine and mostly sunny. Light south-west winds. Warm. Max temp 23-26C (73-79F). **TONIGHT:** Showers arriving later. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	05.06	5.3	17.39	5.1
Margate	06.02	3.9	18.30	3.9
St Mary's	10.55	4.2	23.42	4.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 22C	Min 12C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 10C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 10C
Thursday	Max 18C	Min 11C
Friday	Max 19C	Min 11C
Saturday	Max 19C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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TRANSPORT

Anger as tolls increased with no improvements over jams

Continued from front page

charge increase – the Treasury is unlikely to stop taking this money during austere times – this is about the health of people living near the crossing, who live with the pollution caused by congested traffic."

Asked whether he had confidence in the Government that it would prioritise this, he said: "I refuse to put myself behind government promises, it's not my job.

"As far as I'm concerned they should have made more progress. If you can't deliver a small scheme like this, the world will look at other plans and question whether they will happen."

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, however, said the introduction of free-flowing tolls was not as straightforward as it seemed.

The Tory backbencher said it wasn't a case of putting in cameras and lifting the barriers, but that roads had to be adjusted to ensure lorries travelled through the higher tunnel.

"This is the first scheme of its kind and there is work being carried out already which is not visible to the public," he said.

"I remain opposed to the charge increase and I think the tolls should have been scrapped a long time ago."

Both Cllr Kite and Mr Johnson said while the cost of the tolls was an issue, the real problem for companies was congestion at the crossing, which costs the UK economy £40 million a year.

KCC's Cllr Sweetland said he was concerned toll charges were being increased without any improvements to the traffic problems.

"I am even more concerned that the introduction of free-flow tolling has been delayed yet again and is not now planned until the autumn of 2014, when the original date given was late 2012," he said.

"I would urge the Department for Transport to do all they can to improve on the autumn 2014 date.

"Congestion at the Dartford Crossing and its approaches is now a serious hindrance to encouraging economic growth in north Kent."

The Government is currently looking at long term solutions to tackle problems at Dartford, including the development of a Third Thames crossing.

EDUCATION

Plea for fair funding for all schools

By Marijke Cox
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THE leader of Kent County Council has renewed calls for a fairer funding system to be introduced to ensure a level playing field in the county's schools.

Cllr Paul Carter has written to education secretary Michael Gove asking that all schools – council-run, academies and free – have "equal and fair" support. "Let's have a mixed economy of schools but let's have fair and equitable funding," he said.

KCC fought for a fairer policy as part of a campaign involving the Local Government Association and other councils. "We were arguing too much money was being taken away from local authorities to the advantage of academies and the detriment of community schools," said Cllr Carter.

The campaign proved victorious and the Department for Education agreed to give back £158m to councils for their schools' services. But it has now been revealed that as part of the Government's academies programme, underperforming primary schools are being "handed over" by KCC to academy trusts which are more likely to be able to pour more resources into them to help them improve.

According to Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read, a number of Kent's primaries are being acquired by the Kemnal Academies Trust.

He said an example was Dame Janet Community Infant School in Ramsgate, which was placed in special measures by Ofsted, adding: "The (Ofsted) report states that KCC is developing plans to change the status of the school and it is to become an academy."

A KCC spokeswoman said: "School governors, through discussion with the Department of Education and KCC, make their own decisions to become an academy. Where this decision is made to further improve a schools performance, this is through a sponsorship arrangement. This has happened in the case of nine primary schools that have external academy chain sponsors."

COMMENT: EDUCATION EXPERT PETER READ ON HANDING FAILING SCHOOLS TO ACADEMY TRUSTS

KENT County Council is quietly resolving the problem of low performing primary schools by handing them over to sponsors, mainly large academy trusts.

A classic example is Dame Janet Community Infant School in Ramsgate, which was placed in special measures by Ofsted in January. KCC ought to have poured in resources to bring it back on track; never mind, because the report states it will become an academy sponsored by Kemnal Academies Trust operating out of Sidcup. The Trust is also acquiring five other Thanet primary schools to add to its stable of five Kent and Medway schools.

There is a full list at www.kentadvice.co.uk of Kent and Medway academies and those converting.

The other major trusts operating in Kent are: Academies Enterprise Trust which has acquired four low performing primary schools in Maidstone, and has been heavily involved in running the failing Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate. Leigh Academies Trust runs three secondary, one special and three primary schools, including the failing York Road Junior School. It plans to take over another three schools and is sponsoring Kent's first University Technical College. Swale Academy Trust runs two secondary schools and two primary schools, and is taking over the failing Meopham School.

There are now 67 Kent secondary schools out of 101 in progress or already having converted to academies, together with 57 primaries and one special school. Sadly among these there are still examples of schools where parents do not know what the future holds, for there is no obligation to consult on the changes.

Primary schools have consistently performed below national averages, and Kent is under pressure to raise standards. However, with one in every seven primaries on their way to becoming academies, KCC has now lost control of most of its lowest performing schools, and will have no influence on these although it remains responsible for standards.

Is it that academy trusts have an ability to raise standards where KCC has failed or, when the majority of schools are academies and the resource advantages have vanished, will the myth be exposed as we can already see growing numbers of failing academies?

One final thought. If I were still a headteacher, I would go for academy status with the additional resources available to enhance the quality of education of the students.

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CAMPAIGN

Estuary airport nightmare may drag on for another three years

By Marijke Cox
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LONG-SUFFERING communities in fear of having a giant airport built on their doorstep face yet more years of uncertainty as the Government delays a decision on the future of air travel.

It follows the creation of a cross-party commission, set up to reach a resolution on the contentious issue of aviation capacity and whether to expand Heathrow.

A final report from the group, which is being led by economist Sir Howard Davies, is unlikely to be produced during the current Parliament, meaning at least three more years of waiting to learn the outcome, which could determine whether a Thames estuary airport is built.

This latest development throws doubt on claims that this week's replacement of transport secretary Justine Greening – who strongly opposes expansion at Heathow – was to allow David Cameron to stage a U-turn over the Coalition agreement not to expand Heathrow.

Hopes had been raised that the cabinet reshuffle was a way for the Government to push ahead with a third runway at the west London airport, something that would likely quash plans for a Thames estuary airport.

But the delayed decision past the 2015 election only means more uncertainty hanging over people living in north Kent, where leading architect Lord Foster wants to build a multi-billion pound airport and transport hub.

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject. You can sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

Campaigners had already been eagerly awaiting the start of a promised review into aviation – delayed twice already and due to start this autumn – but that now looks unlikely with the recently created commission.

Clive Lawrence, campaigns director at Demand Regeneration in North Kent (DRINK), said: "What's happening at the moment is just a political and commercial game. It's about time we had some firm leadership.

"If north Kent, particularly the politicians, keep on dithering and not finding out the facts, we could be left with the worst possible result.

"What we urgently need now at local and national levels is leadership and action.

"We need to look at all the facts and see what is best for the country and this area."

While uncertainty hangs over the county, however, campaigners in Medway and Swale said they were growing more confident plans might be scrapped.

Joan Darwell, from Friends of the North Kent Marshes, said: "All evidence shows the Thames estuary is the wrong place. This was presented when we fought against the Cliffe plans and nothing has changed.

"This isn't about putting an airport elsewhere or expanding Heathrow, we're just confident the EU protection over the marsh habitat will never be overcome.

"Boris Johnson needs to listen to his father Stanley, who wrote the EU habitats directive, which protects the marsh."

She added: "There is no need for expansion anywhere. There needs to be better connectivity between existing airports."

Bosses at Manston airport in Thanet agreed, saying that it could be part of the solution to the runway capacity shortage in the South East,

Chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "We are very much looking forward to working with Patrick McLoughlin (the new transport secretary) and his team, ensuring they are fully briefed on the existing capacity at Manston which is available today.

"If the expansion of Heathrow does go ahead, it will not happen for many years and we have the facilities to operate now to meet the demand for growth before any alternative is in place."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunt for sports heroes

NOMINATIONS are open for the annual Sports Achievement Awards run by Tunbridge Wells council. This year they will recognise the achievements of both junior and senior teams, and will celebrate the achievements of those who have contributed to sport either through their own sporting success or through their work helping others. You can nominate someone by filling in a form at www.tunbridgewellscelebrates.co.uk/sports-achievement-awards.

Trip kerbs changed

NEW kerbs outlining bus stops and disabled parking days are to be fitted after a number of people have fallen due to lack of visibility. Although the granite blocks installed by Maidstone council passed safety checks, a number of people have tripped in King Street and the new High Street. The temporary yellow line has been replaced with a black line to help increase visibility of the difference in height levels around the bays.

Market views sought

TUNBRIDGE Wells council says it is looking at ways to build on the success of its fortnightly farmers' market and wants to hear what shoppers and market traders think.

The market is held outside the town hall on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Fresh, local produce has always been one of its major draws.

Cllr Jane March said: "There are no firm plans but it's important that we involve people now."

Anyone wishing to have their say is asked to email farmersmarket@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

PARLIAMENT

Rising star leading the pack as MPs win jobs in reshuffle

ONE of Kent's newest MPs has started her climb up the ministerial ladder as one of six in the county to be confirmed as ministers in David Cameron's government reshuffle.

Maidstone and the Weald MP Helen Grant was this week appointed joint parliamentary under secretary of state at the Ministry of Justice and for women's and equality issues.

Solicitor Ms Grant, who was elected in 2010 succeeding Ann Widdecombe, was the first black female Tory MP.

She has since become 'one to watch' and is expected to rise up the Government ranks.

Fellow Tory MP Damian Green, who represents Ashford, also had an exciting week after being named as policing minister, taking over from Nick Herbert.

Mr Green, previously immigration minister, said: "I'm delighted. It's in the Home Office and Ministry of Justice covering both the police and criminal justice system.

"It's a hugely important role. It's my job to make sure the police and justice system is efficient and that it works to stop criminals committing crimes."



PROMOTION: Helen Grant

He will play a key part in the policing reforms, including the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioners in November.

He added: "This is the first time these elections are being held and the first step before campaigns are launched in the coming weeks is to get the word out there and let people know how important they are."

Asked about the challenges faced by Kent Police in recent years and whether he would be able to help ensure a positive future, he said: "I think Kent Police has a very effective force under a good chief constable."

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark saw his position shift this week with a promotion from planning minister to financial secretary to the Treasury.

And Michael Fallon, MP for Sevenoaks, was given the post of minister of state for business, innovation and skills.

Downing Street said the veteran Tory, who is also deputy chairman of the Conservative party, will act as the voice of business.

Faversham and Mid-Kent MP Hugh Robertson was promoted to minister of state at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and made a member of the Privy Council. He will have particular responsibility for sport, Olympic legacy, and tourism.

Orpington MP Jo Johnson, brother of the Mayor of London, was made an assistant government whip.

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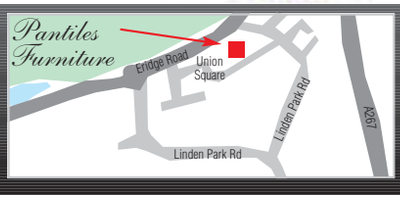
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HOUSING

Deprived estate to be demolished at last to make way for new homes

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PART of the large Sherwood estate in Tunbridge Wells is finally being levelled and replaced with new homes.

Around £34 million will be spent on the area, which is home to 16 blocks of flats built in the 1960s.

A year after a public consultation, the blocks will be demolished, making way for new housing and green open spaces called Lakewood.

Affordable housing provider Town and Country, which owns the estate, said: "Sherwood is one of the most deprived areas in Tunbridge Wells, and in the top 25 per cent of most deprived areas across England.

"The regeneration will see the demolition of 16 existing multi-storey blocks of flats and three retail units.

"The present 176 two-bedroom flats will be replaced with 257 modern homes, 45 of which would be for older people, with high standards of energy efficiency. These will range from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom houses, including homes to rent, shared ownership or to buy outright. New shops, landscaping, private gardens, and clear, safe routes will also be key elements.

"The regeneration is being carried out in three phases. Phase One is at Kemble Close, where demolition begins on September 21, this is expected to take three months. The new homes are expected to be completed by the summer of 2014.

"Phases Two and Three are at Silwood Close and Greggs Wood Road, these have outline planning permission. The entire project is due to be completed by the end of 2016."

The company said around £600,000 is earmarked to provide a new Neighbourhood Park and Community Square area with more consultations on what people want to see in these areas.

It has been three years since Town and Country, the owner of the trio of blocks coming down, revealed initial plans for the area's transformation. The housing group has now just announced its working partner on the regeneration project will be Hill Partnerships.

Town and Country's development director, Colin Lissenden said: "The appointment of our development partner is one of the most important parts of the entire project.

"We needed a partner who could match the high expectations that both the residents and ourselves have, that is why I am delighted we are able to work with Hill Partnerships on the project."



FOR THE FUTURE: An artist's impression of how the redeveloped estate will look

And Kieran Larkin, director of Hill added: "This important regeneration project is not just about delivering new sustainable homes, but also about creating change and opportunity."

Residents are being told there will be plenty of work for them too, with job opportunities and construction apprenticeships, including plumbing, painting, electrical and bricklaying.

Residents also get the chance to nominate someone to push the button to bring down the first block.

Nominations need to be sent to Town & Country Housing Group, FREEPOST TN1520, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1BR. Give the name and address of your nominee, and include your own name, address and phone number. Alternatively, email laura.honniball@tchg.org.uk or fill in a form on the Town and Country website. For details on jobs and apprenticeships, contact jobs@reds10.com to register interest.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music video is a family affair

WHEN musician Toby Uffindell-Phillips needed a top company to make a new rock video, he didn't have to go far – he turned to his mum.

Zoe is a producer for Khaki Films, which usually makes corporate videos. The result is a bizarre 'what's-in-the-case' mystery video which ends with the band being transported to a weird steam-punk world.

Khaki has been based in Tunbridge Wells for four years, and has won several gongs for its films, including prestigious IVCA awards for corporate films for KPMG and Gilead Sciences, and four awards at the Houston US International Film Festival including a Remi for its retail DVD Dance like the Flower Fairies.

Zoe said her 32-year-old son needed a top-notch video for his band Burning Shapes to promote their new single Bad Karma.

It took three months to shoot in various Kent locations, including K College, St Mary's Platt Church, Lillesden Manor, and the new Car Wash Diner near Hawkhurst.

A substantial number of volunteers from the area were keen to muck in as cast and extras.

The core production crew are all from Kent, and include producer Zoe, director Casey Dobie, director of photography Steve Morley, and production assistant Sam Brown.

Zoe said: "Toby and I got on really well. There was no mother-son arguing or drama.

"I can't believe how well this all turned out. We are usually in the corporate market, so it was great fun to do something like this. We are very proud of the result."



VIDEO: Burning Shapes filmed at locations in Kent

Burning Shapes said their sound is like "West Coast pop on steroids". They have put out a trilogy of singles over the past year, and have been played on Lauren Laverne's BBC 6 Music show and a host of internet stations.

Band members, Toby, Dave Tonkinsmith, Andy White, and Steve Martin, all grew up in and around Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.

They have already supported the likes of Mumford & Sons, and The Stranglers, and performed at BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend Festival, and have appeared at festivals including Local and Live in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone Fringe Festival, Gazastock in Sevenoaks, and Faversham Hop Festival.

Go to youtube.com/burningshapes to view the finished video.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suicide prevention bid

NHS Kent and Medway is backing Monday's World Suicide Prevention Day, saying that between 2009-11, there were 130 suicides a year on average in the county. Around three quarters were men, particularly middle-aged men. Research indicates increasing unemployment and recession are linked to an increase in the number of suicides. Anyone feeling despair is encouraged to speak to a friend, their family, their doctor or Samaritans on 08457 90 90 90.

Baker lines up with stars

AMATEUR baker Samantha Park from Maidstone, will share the secrets of her chocolate beetroot cake recipe in a high-profile cook book which features recipes from celebrities including Barbara Windsor, Lauren Goodger, Twiggy, and the Duchess of Cornwall. The Celebrity Bake Book has been commissioned to raise funds for knife-crime awareness charity the Ben Kinsella Trust. Samantha said: "I love baking and enjoy experimenting with flavours."

Hunt for singing talent

A ROADSHOW touring Britain looking for anyone with a disability who has a special singing talent is coming to the Chequers Centre in Maidstone from September 13-15. Organisers at charity Follow Your Dreams are asking local people to come forward and just enjoy the fun and even take part. The overall GB winner goes to Rockfield recording studios, where Queen recorded, to cut a disc.





LARDY LABRADOR: RSPCA staff say overweight Alfie was Britian's fattest pet dog

PETS

Porky pooch hit the same weight as Wayne Rooney

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A DOG lover with dementia kept forgetting he'd fed his loyal pet and the result was Britain's fattest dog.

Eventually, Alife was taken in by the RSPCA to go on a strict diet and exercise regime.

He's doing well, too – dropping 4st from 12st 5lbs, the same as Wayne Rooney, to a more healthy size and weight. But there's more work to go before he can finally be re-homed.

The 12-year-old pooch is being cared for at the RSPCA's Leybourne Animal Centre and he was so fat it took four people using towels as slings to lift him.

He panted heavily as he managed a few weak steps at a time. His life was in danger, and his legs were no longer strong enough to support all the extra weight.

Christine Dooley, centre manager, said: "He literally could not stand up when he arrived because he was so fat. I have never seen a dog that fat before in my 27 years with the RSPCA, he must be Britain's fattest pet.

"He was just a massive blob with a leg at each corner.

"He was being fed to death, it's amazing he was alive given his size. A healthy labrador weighs about 4st 7lbs so poor Alfie was carrying the weight of two labradors and a staffie too."

The lardy labrador couldn't even lift his legs a couple of inches into his bed, so staff at the centre made him comfortable with a piece of carpet and blankets directly on the floor.

The heavyweight hound's neck is so big Alfie wears the same size collar as a St Bernard dog.

Now he's on a calorie controlled diet with two 90 gram meals a day, weekly weigh-ins, and no treats.

His extreme obesity caused him to pant as he struggled to breathe, may have damaged his joints, and led to pressure sores on his legs. But since arriving at the centre in March he is doing well and is more than halfway to his target weight.

Ms Dooley added: "When he first came in he couldn't go on walks because of his size, but each day as the weight is coming off he is able to take a few steps further.

"We have to be careful when staff take him for a walk because if he sits down and refuses to get back up we have to call in extra people to lift him up again.

"We want the weight to come off slowly to give his leg muscles a chance to build up strength and for his skin to shrink.

"We cannot foster him out yet because we wouldn't be able to get him into the back of a car.

"He's such a lovely dog and his tail never stops wagging, everyone here has fallen in love with him."

Just like humans, being overweight can cause diabetes, skin, bone and heart disease, breathing problems, high blood pressure, and cancers.

Sadly, the RSPCA is currently seeing about 30 obese dogs a month at its centres, up from a recent 20 a month.

Anyone wanting to help Alfie and others can give £3 by texting HELP to 78866.



SUPERSIZED: Alfie carried the weight of two labradors and a staffie, or more simply, Wayne Rooney



Kent Life September edition On sale now

CHARITY

Stars set for hospice run

PANTOMIME horses, an Olympic torchbearer, and Bucks Fizz star Cheryl Baker, will all be descending on Tunbridge Wells this month to raise money for charity.

They will be taking part in the Hospice in the Weald 10k run to raise cash for the charity supporting people with life-limiting illnesses.

On September 16 running enthusiasts will don their sports gear to take part in the 10k run while others opt for the gentler family 1k fun run.

This year's event will be especially memorable as Olympic torchbearer Derek Mepham, 62, will run with his torch.

Mr Mepham, from Heathfield, has completed 10 London marathons raising a massive £40,000 for Hospice in the Weald.

For more information on the event visit www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk or contact Philippa Jenkins on 01892 820527.



VOW: Cllr Paul Carter is determined to maintain the tax freeze

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Hall to tackle £240m funding gap in next three years

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall could see further job losses and cuts to services as finance chiefs tackle a spending gap of up to £240 million over the next three years.

The staggering figure was announced at a budget meeting on Thursday, where Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter vowed to freeze council tax for a third year, amid enormous pressure from government cuts and a rising demand for services.

Over the next three years, the authority will attempt to bridge the spending gap, which amounts to £60m-£80m each year. This could involve more job losses saving an estimated £2.1m; cuts to children's centres; increases to the amount people pay for adult social care; and cuts to Special Education Needs school transport.

These are among a list of solutions being put out to public consultation. Kent residents are being asked to comment on the cost-cutting plans over the next eight weeks.

KCC has vowed to protect frontline services and stressed that vulnerable people, the young, and boosting the Kent economy, were at the heart of its priorities for 2013-14.

The council has already lost hundreds from its workforce over the last three years as part of a sweeping jobs cull affecting some 1,500 posts in a bid to fill the hole in its finances, caused by a 24 per cent reduction in government grants amounting to nearly £280m.

Cllr Carter said despite the funding gap, he wanted to freeze council tax for a third year.

He said: "It is pointless to pretend the money will keep rolling in from taxpayers to see the same old services in the same old way, it won't.

"People are working differently or using new technology to make things easier.

"Councils must do that too, and I'm proud Kent is leading the way. Every penny we save is a penny that remains in the pockets of the people of Kent."

He said it was not about "bowing to political pressure" to leave services unchanged and spend more, but to use innovative thinking to find new ways to protect services and keep bills low.

"Demand for services is growing, with more people needing social care and as our population grows there is a greater demand for services and infrastructure.

"So we have the dilemma of responding to increasing demand while at the same time coping with less resources – and we must do all we can to avoid increasing council tax."

Cllr Carter admitted tough decisions needed to be taken.

"All councils are facing unprecedented cuts to their funding as the Government tackles the national deficit, and that isn't going to change in coming years," he said. "If we did nothing to tackle our spending, in four years' time KCC would require a 42 per cent tax rise to keep services running."

He stressed that among its list of priorities, KCC continues to focus on ensuring schools are supported, that employment is a priority with the expansion of its apprenticeship and business grants scheme, that vulnerable people could continue to access help, and that the popular Kent Freedom Pass would continue.

Cllr Carter insisted cost-saving proposals in the budget would defy pressure on the council to cut and cut again by transforming services.

Go to www.kent.gov.uk/budgetviews to see the consultation document Framing the Budget and for a response form. The consultation runs until November 1. KCC members will take the final decision on the budget in early 2013.

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News

EDUCATION

Free screenings will show pupils the magic of cinema

By Marijke Cox
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THE world's largest film festival designed exclusively for schoolchildren is touring the county.

Starting on October 15 and running for almost a fortnight, the festival links to the UK curriculum and introduces children to critical thinking and film education.

National Schools Film Week will run at cinemas in Ashford, Greenhithe, Chatham, Rochester, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, and Canterbury.

Pupils will have the chance to watch films including psychological thriller We Need to Talk About Kevin, based on the 2003 novel by Lionel Shriver; animation Puss in Boots; War Horse, based on the book by Michael Morpurgo; and The Hunger Games, from the bestselling trilogy by Suzanne Collins.

The festival will give schoolchildren in Kent access to a selection of different films, free of charge and with no costs to the school, introducing them to cultural cinema as well as more mainstream viewing.

Case studies taken from schools involved in previous festivals have found the event works on different levels; to provide children with a treat for hard work and to enhance learning in certain areas of the curriculum through critical thinking, such as writing reviews.

Last year, 470,000 students and teachers nationally attended the festival, which is in its 17th year. This year, organisers of National Schools Film Week said there will be 2,500 screenings at 570 cinemas across the UK.

These include Ashford Cineworld, Canterbury Odeon, Bluewater Showcase, Chatham Odeon, Rochester Cineworld, Maidstone Odeon, Tunbridge Wells Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells Odeon, Ramsgate Granville, and Thanet Vue.

Festival director Nick Walker said: "The festival seeks to create a greater awareness and understanding of cinema based on the concept of relationships and dialogues in a variety of films, address issues of cultural exchange and raise awareness among teaching professionals of the use of film across the school curriculum.

"This is achieved by in-cinema talks and online resources, which give teachers the tools to encourage students to explore and understand new cinematic worlds."

The festival runs daily from October 15-26.

A spokeswoman for National Schools Film Week said it would help expose children to the "rich social, cultural and enjoying experience of viewing films in cinema".

She added: "It makes learning relevant and fun, encourages pupils to support local cinemas and genuine content, and fosters mutually beneficial relations between cinema operators and schools."

Go to www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org/ for more information.

BIG PICTURE: Smash cinema hit The Hunger Games starring Jennifer Lawrence, based on a best-selling children's book, is one of the films set to be shown for free for school pupils

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EDUCATION

Controversial free school opens its doors to first children, but union has 'unanswered questions'

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

KENT'S first free school opened in Maidstone this week, with teachers promising to deliver an all-singing, all-dancing curriculum.

But critics have condemned the controversial education scheme, branding it a fad that could threaten other schools in the area.

The Government's Free Schools Initiative allows groups to set up schools which are state-funded but not run by local authorities, giving them more control over the curriculum and budgets.

Leading the way for the scheme in Kent is Tiger Primary School in Loose, which welcomed its first pupils through the door on Wednesday.

The Boughton Lane school says it offers significantly different education for Maidstone and will work to a creative curriculum.

Eventually catering for children aged four to 11, the school, run by Future Schools Trust, has started with two full reception classes and one Year 1 class, and is Maidstone's first new primary school for 25 years.





NEW START: Tiger Primary School, the county's first free school, opened for lessons on Wednesday

Pupils will have specialist teachers for Mandarin, music, gym, dance and games lessons, as well as access to the school farm and ecology woodland.

Teachers say their curriculum incorporates creative writing, history, geography, design and technology, art, science, and ICT skills.

Children will also gain knowledge of religious education, grammar, spelling, comprehension and maths.

Headteacher Emma Bryant, said: "I am delighted to be able to lead the exciting development of a unique learning experience for children in and around Maidstone.

"Tiger Primary gives parents an alternative choice of education, which aims to engage and inspire all pupils to develop and achieve their aspirations for the future.

"We pride ourselves on having a broad and balanced curriculum, utilising learning both inside and outside the classroom."

But National Union of Teachers divisional secretary, John Walder said the school wasn't needed.

He said: "There is no area that is not catered for by the current local authority provision. Depending on how it [Tiger Primary] goes, it may threaten existing schools. Parents have the right to move children to the school of their choice.

"This school popping up and persuading people to join may well see other schools obliged to close down."

Mr Walder is concerned that if schools in the area are forced to shut then teachers will lose their jobs.

He is also worried the school will not last in the long term and could be just a fad.

He said: "There will be an awful lot of hype and fun-sounding phrases [from the school].

"We want to know it will be there for at least 15 years. Will the school still be there in three, four or five years' time? There are lots and lots of unanswered questions."

Mr Walder said some free schools are set up by religious groups, whereas state schools welcome people from all backgrounds.

He also said that although Tiger Primary may be offering exciting classes like Mandarin, in his experience most schools end up scrapping the idea due to lack of interest.

But, despite the criticisms, Tiger Primary is paving the way for a new breed of schools in Kent, with plans for four other free schools to open over the coming years.

Parent of a reception pupil, Kelly Knight, said: "Tiger Primary promises everything you look for in a school; great teaching, great facilities, and a great curriculum. We feel this is the school of the future."

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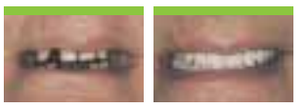
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MUSIC

Festivals caught under a cloud of financial losses



By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AFTER a summer of wet and windy weather, it is perhaps ironic that a storm cloud has gathered over one of Kent's biggest outdoor events.

A combination of the economy, the Olympics and dreary forecasts of rain and more rain, sent a lightning bolt through the finances of the Hop Farm Festival that the power of music was unable to heal.

Predictions of financial losses for the company behind the Paddock Wood extravaganza, Music Festivals plc, were swiftly followed by organisers refusing to be drawn on whether it would return in 2013.

For a festival which elevated itself into the pages of almost every national newspaper in 2011 when it snared the enviable double-header of Prince and Morrissey as headliners, the potential of its demise just 12 months later will shock many.

Yet promoter Vince Power admitted to this newspaper that 2011 still made a loss, although nothing, you imagine, to the size of the shortfall the 2012 event – headlined by Bob Dylan, Suede and Peter Gabriel.

And the impact is not just to the pocket of the organisers. According to Mr Power, the Hop Farm crowd ploughed some £20 million into the local economy.

But the Hop Farm Festival has been far from alone in feeling the pinch during a gloomy summer.

Few of the major festivals in the UK sold-out – despite Glastonbury taking a year off – with the clamour for Olympic tickets and fears of sitting in a muddy puddle for a weekend deterring many.



APPEAL: A show by Emeli Sande helped Lounge on the Farm thrive, while the Hop Farm Festival, right, struggled to draw in the crowds

And where once the choice was limited, today no county is without a handful of events to choose from. According to UK Music, the industry trade body, 500 festivals are scattered across our isle, contributing £864m to the economy.

But while the rewards can be substantial, the risks are high too.

Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm had developed an enviable reputation as one of the UK's so-called 'boutique' festivals; packing family appeal with a laid-back atmosphere and low-key acts.

But in 2011 its reputation was hit with police hollering about a rise in crime and reports of drunken teens causing havoc. For 2012 it had not only the climate to tackle, but repairing its reputation too.

The 2012 event – headlined by the likes of Emeli Sande, The Charlatans and The Wombats – saw a return to form, crime was slashed and confidence restored.

But hopes of making money this year were optimistic at the outset.

A spokesman for the event added: "It was no surprise to us that a forecast of losses was to be accepted. Unlike other years where losses had not been anticipated, this was on a projection based on the climate; it could have been worse."

Certainly the weather played a part. When the sunshine comes out, minds turn to summer jaunts and boost ticket sales. Constant downpours do the opposite.

With a capacity of 10,000, just 7,500 passed through its doors over the course of the weekend.

Yet its future is assured courtesy of a solid behind-the-scenes set-up and significant investors.

Back at Paddock Wood, the organisers of the One Love Festival were one of the rare success stories. Rather than appealing to the mass market, it mined a rich seam courtesy of it being the UK's only festival dedicated to reggae.

Forced to move out of its base at the Hainault Forest Country Park, in London due to the Olympics, it set up camp at the Hop Farm.

"We are different to everyone else," explains Dan Wiltshire, managing director of the One Love Festival. "The fact we are dedicated to reggae means we're the only option for many, so we attract people from all over the country."

It drew around 4,000 people and broke even.

It was not without incident, however. Sharing the venue with other events, organisers were told to turn the music down due to a wedding nearby, and were left perplexed when asked to move their campsites just days beforehand.

"We were disappointed by the way we were treated at the Hop Farm. We're looking nearer Brighton next year, but we'd love to come back to Kent if we get the chance."

Two shows by legendary Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, scheduled to take place this weekend, September 8 and 9, at the Hop Farm, were called off last month and switched instead to Wembley Arena, despite one of the dates being sold out.

The reasons have been kept secret by promoters – the team behind the Hop Farm Festival – although the smart money would appear to be on it being a result of financial implications.

For those events that do re-appear for next year, the future does at least look a little brighter.

Melvin Benn, managing director of Festival Republic, behind the likes of Latitude and the Reading and Leeds events, said recently: "You can't underestimate the fact that a million Olympic tickets were sold this year, I think at least 10 per cent of those ticket buyers will be heading to festivals again next year."

Let's hope for an upturn in the weather, too.

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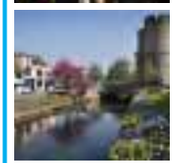
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HORTICULTURE

Kent Life to name its Garden of the Year winners at tea party

THE awards for the third Kent Life Garden of the Year, and Primary School Garden of the Year, will be presented at Hadlow College Design Studio during a high-tea ceremony next week.

From a strong field, just eight gardens have been selected as finalists, and on Thursday, September 13, the entrants from all over Kent will learn who the two overall winners are in each category.

The gardens were judged by a prestigious panel that included award-winning garden designer Roger Platts; Amanda Cottrell, OBE, chairman of Visit Kent; Sarah Morgan, also a garden designer and head of faculty landscape, horticulture and design at Hadlow College; Leigh Clapp, Kent Life's garden editor; and the magazine's own editor, Sarah Sturt.

Prizes, courtesy of sponsor Ruxley Manor Garden Centre in Sidcup, include beautiful engraved benches for the winners, plus garden vouchers and personalised certificates for each of the finalists.

The two winners will feature in the October edition of Kent Life, on sale from September 19, with pictures from the awards ceremony appearing in the November edition.

The current edition of Kent Life is on sale now and has three picture-led pages devoted to the eight finalists.

The finalists for Kent Best Amateur Garden are Knowle Hill Farm, Ulcombe, owned by Elizabeth Cairns; The Drive, Sevenoaks, owned by Victoria and Richard Baxter; Raymer Road, Maidstone, owned by Barbara Badham; Rose Farm Studio, Pluckley, owned by Mel and Lizzie Smith; and also Pheasant Barn, Oare, owned by Sue Vaight.

The finalists for Kent's Best Primary School Garden are Christ Church Juniors, Ramsgate; Hook Lane Primary, Welling; and Hunton CEP School, Hunton.







WELL DONE: Christ Church Juniors in Ramsgate and, right, Rose Farm in Pluckley are finalists in the Kent Life competition

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KENT **REMEMBERED**



MODERN INCARNATION: Matt Smith's predecessors as Doctor Who were often spotted filming in Kent

Doctor Who journeys across galaxies to make regular visits to county

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THROUGHOUT its 50-year history, Doctor Who has made frequent use of locations across Kent for filming.

While the current Doctor Matt Smith has yet to be spotted on set in the county, the show was famous during its early years for every alien planet bearing a marked resemblance to a quarry.

And the first such landscape where shooting took place was John's Hole, close to Gravesend. It featured in the William Hartnell story The Dalek Invasion of Earth, broadcast in 1964 – and the location was meant to be nothing more exotic than a mine in Bedfordshire where the pepperpot shaped invaders were attempting to tunnel to the Earth's core.

Olley Sand Pit, near Trottiscliffe, doubled up as an unknown world where the Tardis materialised in the Patrick Troughton story The Dominators, while Chislehurst Caves were home to the Mutants.

The John Pertwee incarnation of the Doctor was a frequent visitor to Kent. In The Mind of Evil he fought arch nemesis The Master at Manston Airport and inside Dover Castle – which was used as the fictional Stangmore Prison.

And with assistant Jo Grant (Katy Manning) and soldiers from 70s show era stalwarts UNIT (United Nations Intelligence Taskforce), he was a frequent visitor to Romney Marsh for The Claws of Axos which also featured Dungeness Nuclear Power Station and Shorncliffe Barracks.

The show concerned an alien spacecraft which crash-landed on Earth and its crew promising the human race untold technological advances, before their true malevolent nature was revealed.

Originally appearing as golden humanoids, their appearance changed to tentacled monsters as the series progressed and their intentions became clearer.

Filming began on January 4, 1971, at Dengemarsh Road in Lydd for some roadside scenes. More of these – as well as crashed spacecraft – were recorded on the following two days at Dungeness Road.

Yet more road sequences, most including a fight between UNIT soldiers lead by Captain Mike Yates (Richard Franklin) and Sergeant Benton (John Levene) and the Axons, were filmed on January 7 at St Martin's Plain Camp in Shorncliffe.

The following day took cast and crew to the Dungeness 'A' Nuclear Power Station, which served as the Nuton Power Complex for the climax, where the Doctor and UNIT commander Brigadier Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart (Nicholas Courtney) faced down the invaders.

Quite usually for the marsh, the weather proved highly variable throughout the five-day shoot. It was snowing at the start of the week, then it became foggy and finally the sun came out on the final day and to explain the inconsistency, scriptwriter Terrence Dicks improvised a line of dialogue to a character named Corporal Bell.

It noted that the Axon's arrival had prompted "freak weather conditions".

A couple of months later Pertwee's doctor boarded the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Robert Dundas at Chatham for a series of shows entitled Carnival of Monsters.

The ship, which was soon to be decommissioned, posed as the SS Bernice which was promptly attacked by a giant sea serpent.

Production was interrupted when it was discovered an old brass ship's compass had been stolen.

The culprit turned out to be Pertwee himself, who mistakenly believed the compass was to be scrapped along with the ship and so was no longer of any value – in fact, it was to be auctioned off along with other nautical artifacts.

And – in possibly the most famous Kentish Doctor Who connection – one of the most popular doctors of all lived in Boughton Malherbe, near Maidstone, from 1986 until 2003, when he moved to France. Long scarf wearing Tom Baker was resident of The Bell House and a popular member of the village community.







OPINION

Fly away from the mad ideas

Mark Reckless considers some of the possible alternatives to the controversial estuary airport and Heathrow third runway proposals

THE Mayor of London calls a third runway at Heathrow "simply mad" but the only truly mad option in this debate is the mayor's own pie in the sky proposal for a Thames Estuary airport.

By pushing that as his alternative to Heathrow expansion, Boris played into the hands of the vested interests of BA and BAA and a richly resourced lobbying campaign for Heathrow expansion.

I am delighted we have held off the prospect of consultation on options including an estuary airport yet excluding Heathrow. I warned the Prime Minister such a consultation could be overturned by the courts, as I helped overturn the Labour government's 2003 consultation including Cliffe airport yet excluding Gatwick.

Justine Greening as transport secretary was understandably concerned to protect her constituents in Putney under the Heathrow flightpath, but the new transport team can fairly assess all the options.

The reality is that adding a runway to an airport such as Heathrow, with existing infrastructure, will always be incomparably easier, faster and cheaper than building a new airport, and it is ridiculous for Boris to suggest otherwise.

Indeed, the 'research' which he commissioned concluding that a new airport in the Thames Estuary would take only two years longer to build than a third runway at Heathrow, was so manifestly absurd it was not taken seriously.

Foster and Partners' claim a new airport could be built in the estuary for £23 billion is similarly incredible, even before you consider they want airlines using Heathrow to pay for it, and that infrastructure is on top, and they want taxpayers to pay for that.

If the Mayor of London is serious about stopping Heathrow expansion, he needs to get back in the debate, drop his pie in the sky estuary airport proposals and look at other serious options for increasing aviation capacity for the South East, such as:

■ Birmingham could take 25 million more passengers, even without a second runway for which they are safeguarding land. Their existing runway is being extended to take the largest fully-laden jets and allow a large range of services to Asia and the Americas.

The airport is in the middle of the motorway network and easily reached from Kent on HS1 and then via Euston. When HS2 is built, Birmingham Airport will be just over half an hour from Heathrow, 40 minutes from Euston and 57 minutes from Ebbsfleet.

■ Stansted could take 17m more passengers (it took six million more than now in 2007) but is held back by poor transport links.

For £3bn-4bn (rather than £50bn-80bn for an estuary airport) we could build a Crossrail spur from Stratford to Stansted allowing transfer from the airport to the City in 23 minutes, and to the West End or Ebbsfleet in half an hour.

■ Gatwick has a real window of opportunity to come off the fence and push for a second runway, which their planning agreement could allow from 2019. It could then be set free from price controls to compete with Heathrow and build its business following recent success in attracting Asian airlines. We should also improve train links from Kent as well as London to Gatwick as the best option for supporting Kent travellers and our local economy.



The mad option in this debate is the mayor's proposal for a Thames estuary airport

■ Mark Reckless is the Conservative MP for Rochester and Strood

KOS COMMENT

It's been a pleasure to host the Paralympics

WHAT an honour it has been to play such a major role in the Paralympic Games.

From hosting road cycle races at Brands Hatch to residents taking part in the opening and closing ceremonies, the county has been proudly represented.

And with Kent athletes bagging a number of medals at the Games, it's fair to say we've played our role in the greatest show on earth, part two.

Inspiring stories have captivated the public, and the sell-out crowds at Brands Hatch have shown how much Kent has embraced the Paralympic movement.

What a terrific week it has been. We can all pat ourselves on the back for our efforts in making London 2012 the best Games ever.

Hope hits turbulence

AT first the cabinet reshuffle gave us hope the contentious plans to build an estuary airport would be scrapped.

But now it seems we could be waiting for up to five years until a final decision is reached.

In the meantime, we're just left to worry about what the future has in store.

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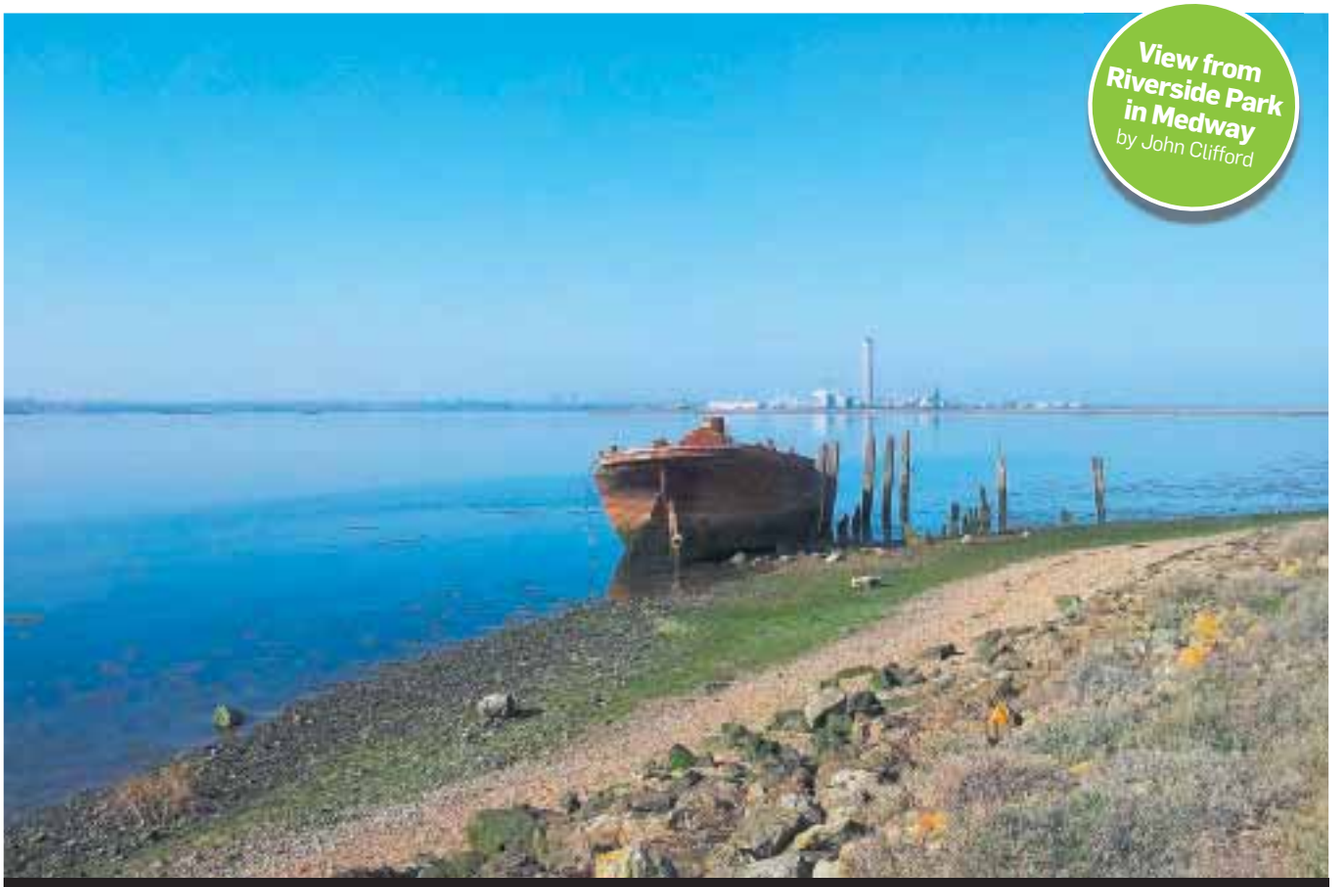
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View from Riverside Park in Medway by John Clifford

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Manston idea is just foolish

I AM forever reading about Maston airport, nobody mentions that the approach landing area also goes over Beltinge, close to Herne Bay,

Sometimes we can see the landing gear it's that close.

I read recently that Maston has three sides over the sea, I suggest they get their facts right. These planes land from either west or east and this takes them either over Ramsgate or Beltinge.

On occassions some of these planes have been very low, as I believe they do training exercises from this airport, you can smell the fumes for hours.

We have fought long and hard for no night flights, but this does not stop them coming in after midnight.

As for Roger Gale MP, he needs to butt out. Manston will never be a successful airport. It's in the wrong place, not one of the operators have made profits to sustain this airport. Stop being foolish.

Shirley Davis
Beltinge, Herne Bay

Airport is good for the county

YOUR heading "Get your facts right, Sir" is a little misleading. In his letter of September 2, Cllr Green does not dispute the facts of my article supporting Manston (August 26). He simply claims I have ignored "brutal economic facts".

Let us then look at these "facts". As he says, two airline operators have run passenger flights from Manston. EU Jet had no problems there, any more than from other airports. Unfortunately, they tried to expand too quickly, the banks called in their loans, and they were forced into liquidation. That had nothing to do with using Manston: it is a "brutal economic fact" that an insolvent company goes bust.

Flybe was different. They announced flights which left in the middle of day – a cheaper time, but unpopular with passengers. They then did little to publicise their flights, assuming that one article in March will stay fresh in people's minds in September. That was not the case, so they discontinued the service. The reason was timing and marketing, and nothing to do with the catchment area.

A catchment area is important. Some airports are surrounded by large populations. But the catchment area for an airport comprises all those for whom it is their nearest airport to fly abroad. In Kent, its entire population has to travel to the other side of London to catch a plane. There can be no doubt that all of central and east Kent would prefer to use Manston, if it had international flights. It's within an hour's drive, compared with a minimum two hours on the dreaded M25 for 'Heathwick'. So the catchment area for Manston is not Thanet: it is most of Kent.

Cllr Green says that, rather than promoting the airport, there is a "far more secure prospect of jobs from the visitor economy". Is he really telling us that a thriving airport, bringing in hundreds of passengers a day, and five minutes' from the famous seaside town of Ramsgate, will not bring one new visitor to the area, and that Ramsgate is better off by having no airport within 100 miles?

They've learnt about "brutal economic facts" in Southend, where the airport is thriving, and no locals would dream of trying to put restrictions on their own airport.

Nicholas Reed, Chairman,
Why Not Manston?

Tell us if you have no TV

ONE of your readers, Miss V Hemsley Flint (Letters, August 26) wrote to say that she was contacted by TV Licensing on a number of occasions despite there never having been a TV at her property.

TV Licensing has a database of more than 30 million addresses so if customers don't need a licence we'd ask they get in touch to let us know. This helps keep our database up-to-date and means genuine non-viewers won't receive unnecessary letters. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to notify us when they don't require a licence, which can be done online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk.

If a customer declares they no longer need a licence, an enquiry officer may visit the property to double check because although the majority of claims received are genuine, one in eight of the people we make contact with when we visit them do in fact need one. Once we've confirmed no licence is needed, the home-owner or occupier won't be contacted for two years.

Victoria Sykes, TV Licensing

Speed limits need to change

IT is incorrect of correspondent Peter Jull (Letters Spetmber 2) to suggest I am unaware of the general 60mph speed limit on country roads and it is apparent that he has misread my letter, because I was careful to say the 50mph speed limit had been extended along that stretch of road between East Farleigh and Yalding, since I had used it previously.

The fact it is a reduction on the general speed limit is irrelevant; it is still too fast for much of its length and even if a case could be made for along the straight stretch (which I believe would be safer at 40mph) it should not begin where it does, in the village.

His statement that "...speed limits can make good drivers illegal drivers" is incredible. Drivers choosing to ignore speed limits because they think they're "artificially low" (his words) are not good drivers becoming illegal drivers. They are 'illegal drivers' full stop.

As for his suggestion speed limits be left alone; I couldn't disagree more: the speed limit on motorways should be raised, but more importantly there are many cases where the limit should be lower.

For example: The road through Boxley to Bredhurst, there is a very sensible speed reduction of 20mph through the village, along with other traffic calming measures, but after driving around the last bend going out of the village drivers are then confronted with national speed limit signs, indicating that a speed of 60mph is permissible.

They're displayed just before the sharp bend on an upward gradient that would be almost suicidal to attempt to negotiate at anything near that speed. That road should have at most a 40mph limit on it, but presumably Mr Jull would argue that if there is no statistical evidence to support it, the limit should be left as it is.

How many collisions would there have to be? How many injuries or deaths before he would be convinced that the limit should be reduced? Far better surely not to wait for such occurrences, but introduce a sensible speed limit commensurate with the character of the road.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Should I look at a bond instead of an annuity?

Q I am 66 years old and soon to be divorced. My solicitor put me in touch with a financial adviser who found the best annuity for me when I share my husband's pension fund. However, a friend says I should look at bonds and not annuities.

A Your friend has probably read that annuity rates are currently poor, thanks largely to the government's quantitative-easing policy of printing more and more money. This keeps interest and annuity rates artificially low.

However, while I do not have details of your husband's pension plan, I can say that it is unlikely you will have any choice apart from an annuity.

The basic rule with pension plans is that if they are anything more than trivial in size, they must be used to provide a pension. You cannot just invest the money elsewhere. You can, though, try to delay buying an annuity in the hope rates rise.

Q I invested £9,000 with Royal Bank of Scotland in 1997. I wrote to the bank but have had no reply yet. Could you possibly trace my investment?

A The statement you sent me shows that you had £9,000 in a Tessa – the forerunner of the tax-free individual savings accounts (Isas). If you did not close the account, I wonder why you have received no statements since 1997.

Confidentiality rules mean the bank cannot talk to me about your money, but if you have received no response soon, contact the bank and set a deadline, after which you can complain to the Financial Ombudsman (0800 023 4567).

Q I have received a letter that says I may be due a council tax refund. Is this a scam? If not, is it worthwhile completing the application form?

A The letter you received from Manchester-based Randall & Vickers says: "Your property is currently in Band C with a council tax bill for this year of around £1,290."

However, the letter explains that at least one of your neighbours has been moved into the cheaper Band B, and if you could do the same, it might save you £161 a year, backdated.

Now for the snag. If you do ask Randall & Vickers to contact the council on your behalf, the firm will charge a whopping 30 per cent of any refund.



And the fact is that you could easily file a claim yourself. A stroll down the road will let you spot houses most like your own, and if you find one in Band B, then it is worth asking the council why yours is in Band C.

How do you know which house is in which band? Go to the government website at www.voa.gov.uk and click on "Check your Council Tax Band".

Enter your postcode and you will get a list of all the addresses nearest yours, complete with their bands. If yours is in the wrong band, it should stand out like a sore thumb.

Q I lost my British Aerospace share certificate during a house move, and I have been told by my financial adviser that it will cost about £70 to replace it. This seems very expensive.

A The £70 is not just the cost of the paperwork. When a share certificate goes missing, typically the most expensive part of the replacement process is paying for indemnity insurance. This covers the company against any legal costs if the original certificate should ever turn up and be misused, or if there is a dispute over it.

Q Because savings interest is so low, we thought we might go for an offset mortgage when our current home loan ends in October. However, First Direct will lend only up to 65 per cent of the property value. Do you know any lenders who offer more?

A Offset mortgages are a neat idea, with your interest payments reduced if you have savings deposited with the same lender. Norwich and Peterborough Building Society (0845 868 9695) will advance up to 75 per cent, while the smaller Market Harborough Building Society (01858 412250) will consider lending as much as 80 per cent.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Learn mobile charges or pay the price abroad

Packing your mobile phone for holiday is as automatic as packing your suntan lotion. But make sure you don't get burnt by high charges, says **ADAM AIKEN**

NEW rules are giving holidaymakers in the EU greater protection from sky-high mobile-phone bills.

Although the over-use of a mobile while abroad can still result in a big bill, the rates that providers are allowed to charge has been capped.

But industry experts are still warning travellers to make sure they know what they will be charged for, and people who are heading further afield are being reminded the price caps do not apply to them.

Unless you have been told otherwise, roaming – the use of your mobile phone abroad – is not included in contract packages.

"UK mobile users travelling to the EU can take peace of mind from the rules and regulations put in place to limit their exposure to bill shocks while they enjoy their holidays," said Kate Murphy, a mobile phone expert with MoneySupermarket.com.

"Unfortunately, there is no such limitation for using your mobile, smartphone or tablet for calling, texting or downloading data when you go beyond the EU.

"Once you go further afield, charges vary from network to network and country to country, so you really need to understand the costs you could face for using your phone when you're outside of the legislated EU and take the necessary precautions to limit the bill you may rack up when on holiday.

"It really is vital to know what the different charges for using your mobile, smartphone or tablet are."

Ms Murphy suggested contacting your network to see if there were any options for a better deal in the country you're heading to.

Dominic Baliszewski, a telecoms expert at Broadbandchoices.co.uk, echoed Ms Murphy's warnings.

"The EU's ruling on roaming charges means that, from July, mobile-phone customers have been paying considerably less for using their handsets while abroad," he said.

"Data services are capped at 58p per MB, phone calls at 24p a minute and texts are just 7p each. But while the EU caps will go some way to mitigate 'bill shock', the charges can still rack up."

Mr Baliszewski said 50MB of data within the EU could set you back £10 with T-Mobile, while O2 charges its pay-monthly customers £1.99 for a day's worth of data (up to 25MB).

Outside the EU, charges are much higher – £30 for 50MB in some cases, he said. "It is important to remember that the caps apply only when travelling to countries within the EU. Once you step outside the EU, charges can skyrocket," he added.

"It is vital customers check their providers' websites before they fly, no matter where they are going, so they know what they will be charged."

Mr Baliszewski said travellers worried about coming home to a nasty bill can protect themselves by turning off their mobile phone's data roaming settings while they are abroad, or by making use of free wi-fi services at hotels and coffee shops.

"Alternatively, a traveller can buy a local Sim card that can be adapted to fit a smartphone," he said.

Richard Lloyd, executive director at consumer organisation Which?, said that while mobile users could take precautions, telecoms operators could also do more to help.

"Using your mobile overseas can be hugely expensive but there are things consumers can do to keep costs down, like using wi-fi where available and turning off data-roaming," he said.

"But we also want to see phone companies doing everything they can to make consumers aware of exactly how much data they're using and the costs."

TOP TIPS



Receiving calls while abroad
You will have to pay to receive calls when overseas. But it's free to receive texts in the EU, so if people want to get in touch with you, ask them to send a text.

Do you need voicemail?
You will probably be charged for picking up your voicemail when abroad. To avoid these charges, you could turn your voicemail service off (you might need to ask your provider to do this for you), or instead change your greeting asking the caller to text you instead.

Outside the EU
Be careful when you travel further afield – and remember, in particular, that the popular destination of Turkey is not within the EU. The cost of mobile phone usage rises significantly outside the EU, and can vary greatly from country to country.

Know your charges
Make sure you understand exactly what you will be charged for – and how much. For example, sending a picture message (with a photo and up to 1,024 characters) on some networks is cheaper than sending a standard text message (which allows only 160 characters).

Consider a local Sim card
If you go to the same destination regularly, or if you want to send texts locally, you could buy a local Sim card. It will still cost a lot to call home, but you will save on local calls and texts while you are there.

Turn off your apps
Many smartphone applications update automatically. This means your device can still be receiving data if it is turned on, even if you are not actively using it. Apps such as Twitter and Facebook can be constantly searching for updates, and this can prove expensive.

Take advantage of wi-fi
A lot of hotels, bars and cafés offer free wi-fi, allowing you to surf the internet for free. Even if you have to buy a coffee or a beer while you are using the wi-fi, it could prove cheaper than using your own data allowance.

When you get home
Check your bill at the end of your holiday, and question anything you do not understand. It is always worth querying an unexpected charge from your phone provider, as it could be a genuine mistake.

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Federation calls for councils to improve procurement process

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

COUNCILS need to better understand their spending with small firms to benefit local economies, according to the Federation of Small Businesses.

Local councils in the UK spend £88 billion per year on procurement. Yet with many not knowing the location or size of business with which they are trading, local communities are losing out, according to FSB research.

The Treasury estimates that the total procurement spend of UK local authorities at £88 billion per year, so the FSB polled all councils to see how and where they spend their money.

The survey revealed some interesting and often positive findings, with many councils indicating that more than half their procurement spend went to small and medium-sized businesses.

However, of the 148 local authorities to respond, the FSB found more than a third (38 per cent) of councils do not record the location of their spending and almost half (49 per cent) don't know the size of the businesses with which they are dealing.

With the average annual spend per council that responded at £185 million, they have huge spending power.

The FSB believes councils must be more aware of what they spend and how they spend it to maximise the benefits to the communities for which they work. As research shows that money spent with local businesses stays in the local economy, this will have positive effects for those areas.

Effective and responsible procurement can benefit both small firms and the local economy by creating new jobs, and keeping existing ones.

The FSB's research showed that the majority of councils claimed to have initiatives in place to support small businesses with the procurement process. But if councils want these to be effective, they need to at least know what they are doing to meet their goals.

The FSB wants to see more accurate and public recording of spend so it can inform strategy and decision-making. This will help to embed and understand the link between procurement and local economic development.

It is calling for all local councils to:

- Put mechanisms in place to record and analyse where and with which businesses money is spent. This should also measure the size of business by micro, small and medium. The data should be transparent and publicly available.
- Ensure they have initiatives to support small firms with the tender process and to develop the potential of their local small-business supply base.
- Streamline and standardise the pre-qualification processes, including approaches for the lowest-value contracts.
- Provide detailed, specific and timely feedback to unsuccessful businesses so they are in a place to bid in the future.
- Break contracts into smaller lots where possible.
- Use the relevant national portal to advertise procurement opportunities.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "We are pleased so many councils took part in the research. It has allowed us to build up a good picture of what is going on and identify some really good practice.

"However, we were surprised that so many councils aren't being more proactive in terms of how they record their spending. Knowing where spend is going in the area, as well as what type of businesses are getting contracts, would help councils focus on improving their procurement processes and ultimately boost communities by helping councils ensure small businesses are getting a fair chance to compete for contracts.

"There are a number of steps we would like to see local procurers take to maximise opportunities for small suppliers. No council is likely to be doing everything we recommend, but we would very much like to see as many as possible work with their local small businesses."

Rural sector under pressure from falling confidence

COUNTRYSIDE businesses are facing a significant drop in confidence and investment, according to the second-quarter findings of the CLA/Smiths Gore Rural Economy Index (REI).

Confidence among the farming sector for the next 12 months has fallen by 25 per cent from a net balance of plus 26 per cent to plus 1 per cent compared with Q1.

Investment for non-agricultural businesses remains a significant issue, with a fall of 15 per cent in net balance from minus 2 per cent in Q1 to minus 17 per cent in Q2.



Last week we reported how plans to rebrand Kent's rural economy were gaining pace – and these findings suggest the move is one that is vital for the county's economic well-being.

CLA acting regional director Tim Brock said: "These Q2 findings highlight how damaged the rural economy is becoming due to low confidence and investment.

"The Eurozone crisis, higher input costs, slow or no broadband and weak consumer confidence are some of the factors hitting confidence in trading, with the inability to secure capital funding the main reason for lack of investment.

"The Government must strive to reduce red tape and improve access to broadband if the rural economy is to recover."

Jason Beedell, head of research at business analysts Smiths Gore, said: "Although there are some encouraging signs for non-agricultural businesses – six out of eight indicators having risen – a significant drop in expected investment is leading to a weak position.

"The message to local and national government is clear – the business environment remains fragile."

Funding scheme set to unlock credit

FIRMS struggling to secure credit may now be able to unlock funding through the Government's new lending scheme, according to DSH Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors.

The Funding for Lending initiative will see the Bank of England lend money to the major financial institutions at below-market rates, hoping they will then pass this cash on to SMEs and entrepreneurs on similarly advantageous terms.

The scheme replaces the National Loan Guarantee Scheme, which experts say failed to live up to its purpose and did little to help businesses gain credit.

Duncan Cochrane-Dyet, partner at DSH's Maidstone office, said: "In the past, lenders have held what some feel to be an excessively risk-adverse position. Yes, they will lend, but only if the risk-profile of a business absolutely fits the banks' credit-risk template.

"While it is a little early to tell whether the scheme will effectively feed lending to those SMEs that have struggled to access credit to date, we at DSH view the initiative positively as there is a lot that a business can do to improve its chances of getting lending."

Introducing the business champion

MAIDSTONE has a new business champion tasked with stimulating economic growth and creating jobs

Steve Goulette will be assisting the borough council's cabinet member for economic development and commercial services, Malcolm Greer, to deliver a growing economy with rising employment, catering for a range of skill sets to meet the demands of the local economy.

Goulette will undertake the role alongside his existing responsibilities as assistant director for environment and regulatory services.

He said: "Maidstone is a great place to do business. We want success for all our existing businesses, but we recognise we need to continue to attract new ones, particularly in these challenging times."

Greer added: "Steve is an experienced and highly capable senior officer. I am delighted that he will be supporting my portfolio by working with existing local businesses to support their existing operation and helping their development ambitions.

"I have also asked him to be our link with inward investment companies."

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ENVIRONMENT

Cut heating bills and go green

ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY business Freetricity, fronted by entrepreneurs Paul Williams and Ben Way, is offering businesses across Kent the opportunity to apply for free heating systems that could cut their energy bills by up to 50 per cent.

The firm was formed after the two men met on Channel 4's Secret Millionaire. It is offering free biomass (wood-fuelled) boilers to business-owners under a Government-backed scheme that will provide commercial biomass boilers for free on a 20-year serviced and maintained basis.

The business pays only for the wood that fuels it and can save between 30-50 per cent on future fuel bills.

Williams, CEO, said: "Over the last year, we have grown to become one of the leading players in the solar-energy sector. However, as a business we are always looking to grow and so we have decided to diversify into the biomass energy sector.

"This is an exciting new area of business for us which offers similar benefits to business-owners as our solar energy offer has. Over time, we hope to expand Freetricity further into other renewable sectors.

"Biomass offers significant savings for buildings which have high heating bills, like schools, hotels, pubs and leisure centres. This type of heating system offers a greener, more cost-effective way of heating buildings. By installing one of our free biomass boilers, there are no upfront costs, but businesses benefit from cheaper heating bills and no capital outlay for a new boiler which can cost up to £200,000. "

The business offers renewable-energy solutions including solar panels, biomass boilers and, shortly, renewable heat pumps.

Way said: "Biomass boilers are essentially wood-fuelled boilers. They are a fantastically efficient method of heat production compared to more traditional fuels such as oil, LPG and natural gas. The biomass system, when designed correctly, will provide 100 per cent of the annual heat load of the building, replacing the requirement for a conventional boiler.

"The fact we can offer the equipment absolutely free makes this a fantastic deal for business-owners who want to cut costs and do their bit for the environment."

Business-owners should see the website www.freeheating.net to find out more.

Apprenticeships given a boost by new report

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MOVES to increase employment and training prospects for young people in Kent have received a warm welcome from across the business community.

The Financial Skills Partnership, together with other commercial groups, companies and politicians, has welcomed the findings of the Holt report into apprenticeships among SMEs, which calls for increased support to help them take on young people to learn a trade.

Social entrepreneur, jeweller and business analyst Jason Holt established an apprenticeship college in response to a declining skills base in his industry. Its success prompted the Government to commission him to compile the report.



FINDINGS: The Holt Report draws attention to the benefits of apprentices for small businesses

It said small firms should have more involvement in designing the content of apprenticeships and have some direct control over the funding through vouchers or discounts on employers' National Insurance contributions.

Currently, less than 10 per cent of small and medium-sized companies in the UK employ apprentices – fewer than half the rate of larger companies.

Liz Field, CEO of the Financial Skills Partnership, an employer-led industry body, said: "The Holt report brings to the fore an issue that has been a priority of ours for some time. There has been an encouraging rise in vocational learning schemes within the financial sector, but with more than 90 per cent of companies in the sector falling into the SME category the success of apprenticeships will come down to how well they are integrated into smaller firms in areas such as Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

"We have done a lot of detailed work developing apprenticeship frameworks for the profession at various levels, always taking care to work in close consultation with practitioners to ensure that, as each of these schemes is rolled out, it is a genuinely useful and relevant tool to help serve the needs of businesses. The reason Jason Holt's recommendations are so pertinent is because the needs of the small businesses take centre stage and, as a result, they will be confident in apprenticeships and the benefits they deliver.

"Consequently, the apprentices will have a much more positive experience and will be guided into worthwhile, rewarding careers.

"Despite the challenges SMEs face in the current economy, there are some fantastic opportunities for companies to utilise the resources available to them. With the Government taking on board the recommendations of the Holt report, I am confident we will see much more vocational training taking place at companies of all sizes, which will ultimately have an impact on growth in the UK."

Education Secretary Michael Gove backed Holt's findings and said training providers, which range from large employers to freelance consultants and colleges, will be issued with a set of standards and warned over the "consequences of not meeting them".

And Skills Minister John Hayes said providers could face being barred from accessing funding if they did not follow proposed guidelines.

TAX

Prepare for your defence

SMALL businesses should ensure they can fight unfair tax demands in the courts, according to a tax specialist.

Nick Ditton, who runs TaxAssist Accountants in Ashford, said that the latest ruling from a VAT tribunal, which saved a bed-and-breakfast-owner from a hard verdict, proved the value of an HMRC fighting fund.

"Costs cannot be recovered from HMRC, even after an appeal has been won, so fee protection insurance is vital," said Ditton. "Without it, it's unlikely that this latest case would have been defended. With it, businesses can fight their corner, knowing the legal costs are met.

"HMRC continues to target small businesses, with task forces targeting cash businesses across Ashford, including private taxi firms, pubs, corner shops, takeaways and market traders, for example.

"Small-business-owners need to protect their hard-earned income and make sure their accountants provide fee protection."

In the latest VAT case, HMRC had demanded that a small B&B run from a family farmhouse, which was well below the VAT-registration threshold, should be lumped with the farm, a separate, VAT-registered business.

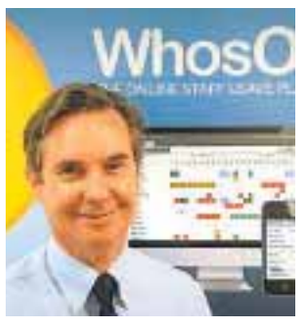
The tribunal found that the two businesses were separate, ensuring the B&B did not have to pay 20 per cent of its income in VAT, increase its prices and become uncompetitive.

Online leave planning firm proud to be a finalist in National Business Awards

CANTERBURY-BASED WhosOff.com – the online staff leave planner used by more than 800 companies across the UK and around the world – has been short-listed for the Small Online Business Of The Year award at this year's National Business Awards In Partnership With Orange.

The winner of the awards will be revealed at the National Business Awards gala dinner on Tuesday, November 13, in London, where WhosOff.com will rub shoulders with companies from across the range of award categories, including National Grid, Marks and Spencer and London Early Years Foundation.

WhosOff.com generates revenue via a subscription model and counts small companies – as well as some of the biggest British and global brand names – among its customers.



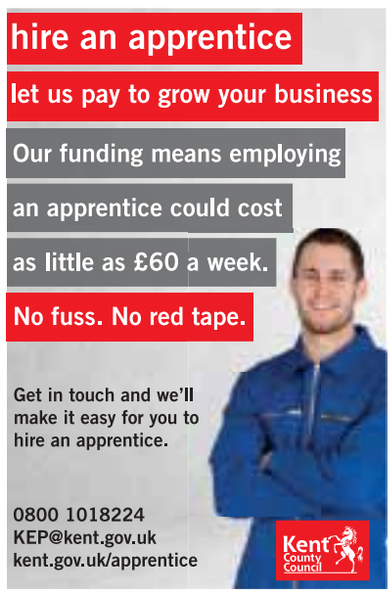
NOMINATED FIRM: WhosOff.com co-founder Philip Cross

David Keene, vice-president marketing at Salesforce, and a National Business Awards judge, said WhosOff.com was short-listed because it submitted "a great user case study for a web app in a cloud computing model, and the developer has an innovative eye for making the app available on mobile devices."

Philip Cross, co-founder of WhosOff.com, said: "We are really proud to be a finalist in the National Business Awards 2012 in partnership with Orange, and it's a reflection of all the hard work by the WhosOff.com team that we have got there."

The National Business Awards has revealed that more than 150 of Britain's leading businesses and business leaders are finalists in its awards programme.

Collectively, all finalists represent an annual turnover of more than £135 billion and employ more than 700,000 staff.



Training, courses and careers

Apprentice numbers on the increase as subsidy scheme reaps rewards

A PAIR of Medway trainees have scooped jobs a year after gaining an apprenticeship.

It's an area renowned for its rich engineering history, where apprenticeships were once commonplace.

Now, a year after the council launched a scheme to encourage more businesses to take on trainees, the number of people taking up apprenticeships in Medway is on the increase.

The latest figures show a 63 per cent rise in the number of people starting apprenticeships in Medway since 2009, with 809 trainees signing up in 2010-11, up from 495 in 2009-10.

The figures come just a year after the council announced a new subsidy scheme designed to help businesses with the costs of taking on an apprentice.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

The council has invested more than £200,000 in the scheme, as well as hundreds of thousands from European funds, which offers businesses a £2,000 grant for the wages or training of an apprentice.

In the past year alone, more than 200 apprentices have started training in Medway, at around 150 different businesses, ranging from administration and customer service to construction, engineering and butchery.

The council also took part in the national 100 in 100 campaign – the challenge to create 100 apprenticeships in 100 days – in 2011, and from that secured 190 apprenticeships across Medway, with many now finding their way into full-time work, just a year after starting their training.

Rosie Seath, 19, started her apprenticeship at homeless charity Medway Cyrenians last summer.

The teenager from Cliffe Woods had just finished studying office administration at college and was looking for work that would build on her studies.

She said: "When I got the call to offer me the apprenticeship last year I was so excited.

"The thing about an apprenticeship was that it meant I could get working while gaining more skills, and experience and qualifications are what so many employers are looking for."

One year on, after completing her apprenticeship earlier than expected and gaining and NVQ Level 2 in business administration, Rosie has been offered a full-time position at the charity. She is now PA for founder, Karen Hurley, who said: "She is doing a grand job and we're so proud of her.

"She's the first apprentice we've taken on and we'd consider doing it again."

And David Leak completed an apprenticeship in welding and fabrication which saw him bring a piece of history back to life.

David, also 19, is one year into his apprenticeship working on the restoration of the Medway Queen.

He is one of a team of nine apprentices who have busy working on different components of the paddle steamer, currently docked in Bristol, in anticipation of its return to the waters of the River Medway.

He said: "The past year has been great. Although I learnt the basics at college, coming into the workplace and actually getting to work has been the best experience you can get.

"It's also exciting to be working on a historic ship that obviously means a lot to the local community. To be part of a young team refurbishing it feels really worthwhile and I think will help me stand out to employers in the future.

"My granddad has been on the Medway Queen and also worked in construction and engineering so he's really proud of me and excited that I'm working on the ship."

He added: "If I were to meet another young person thinking about an apprenticeship, I'd tell them to grab it with both hands, it really is worth it and it's good fun too."



TRAINING: Apprentice Rosie Seath has a full-time job with a homelessness charity



HERITAGE: David Leak has been helping to restore the historic Medway Queen

College says cost should not be a barrier to studies

WITH some universities charging up to £9,000 for an HND diploma, one Kent says it has slashed the cost to £5,700.

There are a number of Higher National Diplomas/Certificates and foundation degrees available for that price at MidKent College.

Anyone signing up for a full-time HE course may also be eligible for a £1,000 progression bursary in the first year.

Director of higher education development Stephen Batchelor said: "Money should not be a barrier to education, which is why we try to keep our course fees as low as possible.

"As the UK navigates its way through a double-dip recession, providing employability skills for our learners remains a key focus for MidKent College.

"We have designed a series of qualifications that will provide young people with the skills and abilities they need to be successful in building a career and gaining an edge in the ever-more crowded job market, making higher education a worthwhile long-term investment."

It claims to have the highest quality of teaching thanks to the courses being validated by either the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University, or Edexcel.

A spokesman said: "We also recently launched several new courses to add to our existing HE offer that includes HNC/Ds and/or foundation degrees in applied chemistry, business, building and civil engineering, information technology, engineering, qualifying to teach in the lifelong learning sector, and childhood studies.

New at Medway from September is a HNC/D in hospitality and event management; HND in performing arts (musical theatre and production pathways); and HNC/D in public services (ssecurity pathway).

At Maidstone there is HNC/D in entrepreneurship; HNC/D in sport and leisure management; and HND in health and social care (applied social science).

Academy wins gold for top notch teaching in arts

HARTSDOWN Academy in Margate has won the highly coveted Artsmark Gold standard.

It is the top honour for the arts that any school or college can achieve, and was awarded after assessors visited the college and investigated all the arts departments – art, music, drama, performing arts.

Executive headteacher Andy Somers said: "This is a fantastic achievement. You have to maintain a very high standard to be awarded Artsmark Gold – and we earned the award because we are among the best in the UK at delivering the arts curriculum.

"The assessors were clearly impressed at the range and diversity of activities, displays, exhibitions, performances and work that they saw in classrooms, workshops and around the campus."

Margate mayor and mayoress Will Scobie and Jodie Hibbert joined in the praise for the college's arts during a tour of the campus.

Ms Hibbert said: "Arts is so important for many young people – it gives them a fantastic chance for creativity and expression and is a great way of building self-confidence."

Schools & education

Zig-zag lines parking warning for parents as new school year begins

PARENTS and other drivers stopping outside schools and colleges in Medway have been warned that a major clamp-down could cost them dear.

The new term has started, and motorists have been told road safety officers are out in force.

The council wants to reduce congestion, improve visibility of young pedestrians, and stop illegal and dangerous parking.

Su Ormes, principal road safety officer said: "Understandably many parents drive their children to and from school for various reasons.

"However, there is a small percentage of parents parking inconsiderately and illegally on the yellow zig-zag lines or on roads outside the school gates.

"We hope parents will make a positive step and find a legal place to park."

The Zig Zag banner campaign aims to stop drivers from parking on the school keep clear markings, commonly referred to as zig-zag lines.

There are three banners, each carrying a progressively stronger message from Green – don't park here, to Red – keep clear.

And Medway Council's Cllr Phil Filmer added: "We take road safety in Medway very seriously. If parents can do their bit for congestion and the environment by leaving their car at home and walking their child to school or joining one of the many walking bus schemes in Medway, that would be very positive."

Sir's swapping blackboards for a scalpel as he retrains to be a doctor



DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE: Teacher Oliver Batham

ROCHESTER Independent College is used to its students winning medical school places – but this year it is wishing good luck to one of its English teachers who is retraining as a doctor.

A-level and GCSE English teacher Oliver Batham has won a place at Southampton University to study medicine on a graduate entry medicine course.

He said: "These accelerated courses are already the norm in countries like the USA, where medicine is a postgraduate course.

"The entry requirements are different to the standard undergraduate course – entrants have to have completed a degree first, although not necessarily in a scientific subject. Other requirements tend to be similar to those of other entrants – A-level chemistry and a good amount of work experience are both key.

"As well as undertaking my new course, I look forward to remaining in touch with RIC and hope to return in the near future, both to speak to my old English students and to give interested students an insight into life at medical school."

Also off to start medical training from RIC is tenacious student Vinitha Soundararajan who last year, despite A grades in biology, chemistry and maths, was rejected by all the medical schools she applied to. Refusing to give up on her dreams of becoming a doctor she opted to take a year out to improve her profile and reapply.

Vinitha now has an extra A-level in sociology, and starts her MBBS Medicine course at the University of East Anglia in October.

She said: "Anyone thinking of applying for medicine keep going at it. You will get people along the way who will tell you it's too hard but at the end of the day you have to go for what you want."

Final touches are being added to college's redevelopment works

MULTI-million pound development work at Canterbury College is coming to an end.

Much of the work at the New Dover Road site was completed by January, but the final details are being completed and it will be fully open this time next year.

The majority of the campus buildings were redeveloped. The latest project began with the demolition of 'H-Block', the last of the old teaching buildings, during the holidays.

In its place will be 'Block 17', a three-storey complex.

It will be home to the supported learning provision, including a training flat which will have a living room, kitchen and bathroom areas.

The flat has been designed to help supported learning students develop independent life skills. 'Block 17' will also be the base of higher education provision and will contain 30 classrooms, art studios, lecture theatres, and a student common room.

The overall redevelopment project will have taken seven years and cost more than £100 million.

The already-completed buildings feature four hair salons, a fully functioning training spa, a children's centre, dance and drama theatre, motor vehicle centre, veterinary nursing, early years, public services, sports therapy, and student recreation facilities.

The redevelopment has already won a LABC South East Building Excellence Award.

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Day Trips

September		Adult	Child
Thurs 13th	Camden Lock & River Cruise	27.00	19.00
Sat 15th	De Panne	22.50	19.00
Sun 16th	London eye, Carvery Lunch River Cruise	66.00	59.00
Thurs 20th	Boulogne	26.50	19.00
Sun 23rd	Westfield Stratford Shopping Centre or London	17.00	14.00
Tues 25th	Eltham Palace, Gardens & Rangers House	46.00	43.00
Thurs 27th	Portsmouth	21.00	16.00
Sat 29th	Cycle Show - NEC Birmingham	46.00	43.00
Sun 30th	Bruges	35.50	29.00
October			
Mon 1st	Afternoon Cite Europe	16.00	12.50
Thurs 4th	Olympic London Explorer	37.00	33.00
Sat 6th	De Panne	22.50	19.00
Tues 9th	Hampton Court Palace	33.00	26.00
Sat 13th	Knitting & Stitch Show	28.00	22.00
Mon 15th	Westfield Shopping Centre & BBC TV Tour	29.00	19.00
Tues 16th	Dobbies	9.50	9.50
Wed 17th	Autumn Colours Tour	14.00	9.00
Thurs 18th	Boulogne	26.50	19.00
Fri 19th	Wisley Gardens - A Taste of Autumn Festival	29.50	25.00
Sun 21st	Bruges	35.50	29.00
Sat 27th	Halloween at Disneyland Paris	77.00	69.00
Mon 29th	Bank of England Museum & London	23.00	18.00
Tues 30th	Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter	23.00	18.00

Book Now for Christmas Markets & Events!!

Sat 17th Nov	Blenheim Christmas Living Crafts	39.00	33.00
Tues 20th Nov	Christmas Shopping at Harrods & London Lights	17.00	14.00
Sun 25th Nov / 9th Dec	Bruges Christmas Market	35.50	29.00
Thurs 29th Nov	Winchester Christmas Market	29.00	22.00

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(info@umbermaster.co.uk)

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The successful candidate must have a recognised qualification such as NVQ Level 2 and 3 or equivalent with experience in a salon or spa.

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Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am - 3.45pm), term time only. **Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply**. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 21.9.12

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

These posts are primarily located at Margate but will be moving to our head office based in Dover in the near future

PATIENT CHOICE ADMINISTRATOR

Full time position

Experience within a medical environment desirable

BOOKINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Full time position

Experience within a medical environment desirable

Closing date for applications Friday 21 September

To discuss these opportunities please contact:

Paul Parish - Business Office Manager
01843 234555 ext 63316

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital
Ramsgate Road
Margate
Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.

Swale Academies Trust

Westlands School

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An opportunity has arisen to appoint support staff to the following term time only positions:-

2 x 27 hours per week posts supporting pupils in mainstream classes

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. A particular interest in the areas of mathematics and / or science would be an advantage. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: 19 September 2012

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

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Closing date for applications Friday 21 September

To discuss this opportunity please contact:

Suresh Bandaru - Physiotherapy Manager
01843 234555 ext 63361

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
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Kent CT9 4BG
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The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.

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Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00559/FUL: The Old Farm House, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NS Erection of new dwelling and erection of a new outbuilding to provide garaging and external storage in the garden of The Old Farmhouse. **Applicant: Mr I Bower Smith** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01469/FUL: Greenways, The Drove, Chestfield, CT5 3NY Replacement of hanging tiles with fibre cement weatherboard. **Applicant: Mrs E Jackson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01488/FUL: 8 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT1 3LJ Creation of basement. **Applicant: Mr Wood** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01491/FUL: Plough Inn, London Road, Upper Harbledown, CT2 9AW Change of use of public house (Class A4) to single dwelling (Class C3); associated external alterations including the erection of a conservatory and installation of first floor window in western elevation. **Applicant: Mr Bungar** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01492/FUL: 115 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LS Formation of vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr T Moxley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01494/FUL: Tullivers, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EB Insertion of dormer in front roofslope and rooflight in rear roofslope. **Applicant: Mr N Butcher** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01498/FUL: 2 Willow Way, Chestfield, CT5 3JJ Conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Birks** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01507/FUL: 2 Becketts Wood, Chislet, CT3 4DQ Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions. **Applicant: Mr Brown** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01509/FUL: 45 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AS Relocation of existing ATM from the left hand window bay to the central window bay of the shop front. **Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01510/ADV: 45 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AS Relocation of existing ATM from the left hand window bay to the central window bay of the shop front. **Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01513/FUL: Glencot, School Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5ER Single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs Holliday** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01514/ADV: 60-62 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BB One externally illuminated fascia sign and one externally illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Harris & Hoole Baristas** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01523/FUL: 19 Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LT Vehicular crossover. **Applicant: Mrs Raymaud** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 1 October 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 7 September 2012

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0759/SH - 9 Grand Court Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2EU - Alterations and extensions to the roof to provide additional living accommodation.

Y12/0762/SH# - Martello Tower Number 23 Hythe Road Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent - Listed building consent for removal of existing and application of new render to exterior.

Y12/0751/SH - Land adjoining Well House 41 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent - Erection of a pair of four-storey semi-detached dwellings, with the fourth floor contained within the roof space, together with the creation of a vehicular access.

Y12/0766/SH+ - 16 Hillside Street Hythe Kent CT21 5EL - Felling of a Norway Spruce tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0765/SH - 1 Lime Villas High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of an Eucalyptus tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0769/SH+ - H V Wooding Ltd Store A Range Road Industrial Estate Range Road Hythe Kent - Section 73 application to vary conditions 2, 3, 11 and 13 to install solar panels and alter the pitch and height of roof, installation and alteration of windows and doors, alterations to brick and cladding, revised parking layout and retention of west boundary wall and rain screen cladding.

Y12/0725/SH+ - Oakleigh House, Upper Malthouse Hill & 25 Hillside Street Hythe Kent - Pruning works to five trees situated within a conservation area comprising the reduction in height & width of two Bays (T1 and T4) and a Damson (T3) and the reduction in height of a second Damson (T2).

Y12/0763/SH - The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Listed building consent for the installation of fire alarm system to outer foyer entrance off Metropole Road East.

Y12/0767/SH - Land at Ingles Manor and land at Folkestone Garden Centre Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent - A hybrid application encompassing: 1) Full application for the erection of 13 dwellings with associated parking and landscaping together with 3 two storey office buildings with parking and landscaping forming phases 1 and 3. & 2) Outline application for the erection of 44 dwellings with associated parking and landscaping forming phases 2 and 4 (matters relating to access, landscaping and layout).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/AS/0311/2012 - Proposed development at Former Wavin Plastics Site, Brunswick Road, Ashford, Kent.

Viridor Waste Management Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for a temporary change of use of land to a household waste recycling centre and transfer site.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

KCC/SW/0310/2012 - Proposed development at Ballast Phoenix Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Recycling Plant, Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR.

Ballast Phoenix Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the variation of condition 9 of planning permission reference SW/05/1203 to amend permitted stockpile heights.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

KCC/SW/0297/2012 - Proposed development at Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR

MW Environment Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for extension to wood storage area and improvements to site access at the approved Ridham Biomass power plant (planning permission SW/10/774). The proposed development also affects the setting of the public right of way.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 9 September 2012

Kent County Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012

SW/12/0045 & SW/12/0076:
Outline Planning Application for the demolition of existing buildings and structures (except for) the retention of the Former Working Mast House (Building 26), Rennie Pumping Station, and the retention of the existing Ambient Area W4 building and existing Cool Store No.2 building and use for Nacelle Inventory (i.e. nacelle cover, generator, gear, transformers) and Offshore Stores (i.e storage of parts for the offshore wind turbine) up to a maximum of 26,400 sqm (GEA), proposed erection of a Blade Production building up to a maximum of 125,300 sqm (GEA); a Common Services Centre (i.e. administration and catering building) up to a maximum of 11,500 sqm (GEA); a Nacelle Production building (i.e. enclosure for the generator) up to a maximum of 12,250 sqm (GEA); Blade storage area up to a maximum of 229,185 sqm; Nacelle Storage area up to a maximum area of 57,320 sqm, tower storage up to a maximum of 101,680 sqm; Main Substation Area up to a maximum area of 3250 sqm (GEA) and facilities for Power Conversion Modules assembly and tower erection, with associated cranes/rigs.

Layout, Scale, proposed internal access roads, appearance and landscaping matters are reserved.

Full Planning Permission for the retention, strengthening and infilling of existing quays structures, dredging, the erection of new marine structures to create a continuous offshore transit area and quay wall, new inset berth (consisting of a new finger quay and travelling crane), relocation of the existing car terminal and berth, provision of an internal perimeter access road, and quayside storage and assembly areas.

This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

SW/12/0076 - Demolition of free-standing structures potentially listed by virtue of being within a curtilage of a listed building (shed no. 1, shed no. 2, shed no. 2A, Shed no. 67, shed no. 68). Demolition of structures potentially listed through physical annexation to be altered or demolished (shed no. 25, shed no. 25W and attached sub station, shed no. 27, Dockyard Wall adjacent to west of south (railway) gate, Rennie sea wall, below ground adjacent to Building 26).

PLEASE NOTE AMENDED DESCRIPTIONS, AMENDED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED.

-Sheerness Docks, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1, 2, 3, 6 & 8**

SW/12/0797:
Listed Building Consent for the demolition and rebuilding of the plinth walls, south wall and floors, repairs and alterations to the timber frame (all retrospective) and the replacement of the metal sheet roof with thatch - Green Farm Barn, Stalisfield Green, Stalisfield Road, STALISFIELD; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0865:
Authentic replacement UPVC windows to front elevations - 37 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0921:
Variation of conditions 15 and 17 of SW/12/0395 to allow extended hours for B2 use and vehicle movements - 6/1 Trinity Trading Estate, Mill Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1031:
Proposed hoop ladder and safety railing to existing flat roof - 29 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1036:
Outline application for four houses - Land adjacent to the Four Horseshoes PH, Head Hill Road, GRAVENEY; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1050:
Front Porch, rear two storey side extension, first floor extension + enclosure of existing car port to create a garage with additional paving - Pippins, The Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1068:
New building comprising 6th form centre and teaching rooms and a new multi-use games area - Queen Elizabeth School, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1, 2 & 3**

SW/12/1073:
Change of use from a residential detached house to A2 use for an estate agent's office - Gate House, Brenley Lane, Brenley, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1085:
Advertisment consent for three non-illuminated wall mounted signs - The Methodist Church ,High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Notice of proposal to modify definitive map order

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Notice is hereby given pursuant to paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine the Kent County Council Former Excluded Area of Ramsgate – Order No. 4 (Public Footpaths TRX17, TRX18, TRX19, TRX20, TRX21, TRX22, TRX23, TRX24, TRX25, TRX40, TRX41, TRX42, TRX43 and TRX49) Definitive Map Modification Order 2011 proposes to modify the Order by providing for the following modifications:

- In Part I of the Order, the description of Public Footpath TRX20 be amended by deleting the sentence "At a point approximately 93 metres from the commencement of the route on Dumpton Park Drive a small spur also numbered TRX20 with a width of 1 metre runs north westwards for 5 metres to connect with Frances Gardens."
- In Part II of the Order, the description of Public Footpath TRX20 be amended by deleting the sentence "After 93 metres there is a spur with a width of 1 metre that runs for 5 metres to its junction with Frances Gardens."
- On the plan attached to the Order delete the spur and associated text

A copy of the Order as submitted and a copy of the Order showing the proposed modification together with the Inspector's Order decision dated 01 August 2012 have been deposited in the Countryside Access Service, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX and at the offices of the Thanet District Council, Cecil Square, Margate and may be inspected free of charge during normal working hours.

Any representation or objection with respect to the proposed modification may be sent in writing to Clive Richards, The Planning Inspectorate, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25 Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6PN, tel 0117 3728626, e-mail clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference FPS/W2275/7/67, between 10 September 2012 and 08 October 2012 and must state the grounds on which it is made. It should be noted that any such representation or objection may be made available for viewing by interested parties at the council offices on request.

Dated this 9th day of September 2012.

Notice of proposal to modify definitive map order

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Notice is hereby given pursuant to paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine the Kent County Council Public Footpath AE662 at Brabourne Definitive Map Modification Order 2011 Map Sheet 129 (TRO4SE) proposes to modify the Order by providing for the following modification: -

* In parts I and II of the Schedule to the Order, where the width is stated to be 1.0 metre, delete '0' and insert '2' in its place. Add 's' to the end of 'metre'.

For purposes of location, the claimed route runs from Church Road opposite the Primary School and runs generally north-westwards for approximately 412.2 metres to its connection with public footpath AE285.

A copy of the Order as submitted and a copy of the Order showing the proposed modification together with the Inspector's Order decision dated 09 August 2012 have been deposited at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS and may be inspected free of charge during normal working hours.

Any representation or objection with respect to the proposed modification may be sent in writing to Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25 Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN, tel 0117 3728626, e-mail clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference FPS/W2275/7/65, between 10 September 2012 AND 08 October 2012 and must state the grounds on which it is made. It should be noted that any such representation or objection may be made available for viewing by interested parties at the council offices on request.

Dated this 09th day of September 2012.



PLANNING

THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

(OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2012

The Shepway District Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") in exercise of their powers under section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State (The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders) (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and of all other enabling powers hereby gives notice that the charges to be paid in connection with hourly tariffs and season tickets at off-street parking places will, on 17th September 2012 be varied as follows -

Charges apply 8am - 8pm unless otherwise indicated			
Car Park		Details of the charges on the date this notice is given	Details of the charges that are to be payable when the notice comes into force on 17/09/2012
SHORT TERM			
Folkestone:			
Upper Payers Park	Up to 30 mins	£0.80	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £0.50 (30 minutes) Maximum payment £3.00 (3 hours)
Shellons Street	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	
Foresters Way	Up to 2 hours	£2.30	
Pleydell Gardens	Up to 3 hours	£3.40	
LONG TERM			
Folkestone:			
	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £1.00 (1 hour) Maximum payment £6.00 (all day)
	Up to 2 hours	£2.30	
Harbourside	Up to 3 hours	£3.40	
Leas Cliff Hall	Up to 4 hours	£4.50	
Tram Road	Up to 5 hours	£5.70	
	Up to 6 hours	£6.70	
	Up to 12 hours	£7.90	

Car Park Season Tickets	Current charges	
Valid in all car parks where the maximum stay is over 3 hours	3 months	£125.00
	6 months	£250.00
	12 months	£500.00
Shepway Car Park Residents Permits	12 months	£52.00
Replacement permits		£5.20

Car Park Season Tickets		Proposed Charges		
Valid in all car parks where the maximum stay is over 3 hours		12 months	6 months	3 months
	At any time	£657.00	£378.00	£165.00
	6 days per week	£560.00	£280.00	£140.00
	5 days per week	£468.00	£234.00	£117.00
	4 days per week	£374.00	£187.00	£94.00
	3 days per week	£280.00	£140.00	£70.00
	2 days per week	£187.00	£94.00	£47.00
	1 day per week	£94.00	£47.00	£24.00
Shepway Car Park Residents Permits		£52.00	-	-
Replacement permits		£5.20	-	-

A copy of the Notice of Tariff Changes may be inspected at the District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Notice or of any of its provisions on the ground that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made there under has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice was published, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the Notice or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853380) during normal office hours.

A. Lague, Highways Engineer, On behalf of B. Porter,
Head of Communities, Shepway District Council,
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue,
Folkestone, CT20 2QY

8th September 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1127/S - MOUSEHOLE FARM, MAIDSTONE ROAD, NETTLESTEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5HR - Amendments to two existing fishing lakes, provision of a third lake, retention of a timber building providing storage, mobile canteen and sitting area, additional car parking area and associated landscaping. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1496/N - LEADING CROSS GREEN FARM, HEADCORN ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2HS - Erection of first floor extension over existing single storey side extension and reconfiguration of roof structure of existing rear extensions to form double gable end and associated works. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1507/S - 72, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0DT - Erection of single storey front, side and rear extension, two storey side and rear extension, loft conversion and detached garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1525/S - 2, SUTTON FORGE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DY - The removal of the existing fencing and the construction of a brick wall (with closeboarded fencing infill panels) on the property boundary line adjacent to the public footpath. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1526/N - 1, GABLE COTTAGES, OTHAM STREET, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RL - Erection of a two storey and single storey side extensions. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1532/N - 9, MILL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XP - Change of use from offices to part beauty salon and part residential with alterations to shopfront. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1541/S - LAND OFF, TOVIL GREEN, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE - Erection of four blocks of two and three-storey terraced houses comprising 12 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom houses for affordable rent with associated private amenity space and car parking. **Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **9th September 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 23rd September 2012

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01702/HOUSE **1 The White House, High Street, Brenchley**
- Single-storey extension with catslide roof over incorporating a single bedroom and new conservation rooflights (LB) (CA)

12/02363/LBC **Brenchley Manor, Brenchley Road, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of felt roof to existing central flat section of roof, with lead flat roof (work already carried out) (LB)

12/02382/LBC **The Barn, Fairmans Lane, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Repaint all exterior weatherboarding & joinery in black stain; replace existing single door/window on south east elevation with bi folding doors; remove oil tanks and demolish walls replacing with new plastic oil tank in new position behind barn (LB)

12/02350/FULMJ **Trenley Farm, Trenley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Development of two bay garage and store. Three stables for private use with ancillary storage and associated grazing. 20m x 40m sand school. Provision of access drive (LB) (MAJOR)

12/02411/LBC **Shipmans, Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to kitchen and dining room floor including excavation of soil under joist and installation of two air bricks, replacement of rotten joist and floorboards, relocation of salvageable floorboards, fixing rigid insulation boards between joists, laying antique dark oiled solid oak floorboards to all areas except kitchen, removal of concrete floor to alcove where new kitchen is proposed, excavation of soil for new concrete floor with DPM and thermal insulation to receive sand, cement screed, finished with brick tiles (LB)

12/02422/LBC **Great Hungerden Cottage, Green Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to stair handrail and banister; Replacement of soleplate to west wall of dining room with associated timberframe repairs, together with lowering of the dining room floor by 230mm including new breathable limecrete slab (LB)

12/01444/FUL **Connollys, Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Conversion of former kitchen and living room to provide one 1 bedroom flat (LB) (CA)

12/02339/FUL **12 Roedean Heights Roedean Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Creating of 2 No. double glazed timber casement windows on south elevation (CA)

12/02398/FUL **Garden Cottage And Mulberry Lodge, 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings (CA)

12/02407/CAC **Garden Cottage, 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of dwelling (CA)

12/02351/FULMJ **Sparshatts Of Kent Ltd, Longfield Road, Sherwood**
- Change of use to B2 and B8 with ancillary trade counter and including following uses: storage distribution and sale of tiles, floor coverings bathroom furniture and other building materials. Machinery tool and plant hire. Autocentre and plumbers and builders merchant (MAJOR)

12/02335/FUL **Q8 Petroleum (GB) Ltd, London Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Erection of 4 no. dwellings with access parking and landscaping (LB)

12/02257/LBC **The Cottage Groombridge Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Alteration to walls and gate piers at entrance (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 8 September 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Dog and Duck, Plucks Gutter, Stourmouth**

Applicant: **John Moon**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

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01303 817044

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

A20 ASHFORD ROAD & WOOTTON LANE, CHARING (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to the refurbishment of Westwell Leacon railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on A20 Ashford Road and Wootton Lane, Charing, on or after 17 September 2012 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

A20 ASHFORD ROAD, CHARING - a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph will be imposed from the centreline of Westwell Leacon bridge, for a distance of approximately 300 metres northwards and approximately 170 metres southwards.

WOOTTON LANE, CHARING will be closed from the junction with the A20 Ashford Road for a distance of approximately 50 metres north eastwards

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Wicken Lane, Westwell Lane and Wootton Lane.

MUNDY BOIS ROAD, EGERTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a drainage culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mundy Bois Road, Egerton, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Kingsland Lane to the property called Honess.

The alternative route is via Mundy Bois Road, Smarden Road, Egerton Road, New Road, Rock Hill Road and Mundy Bois Road.

HIGHWAYS-CANTERBURY AREA

BOYDEN GATE HILL, CHISLET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerb modification works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boyden Gate Hill, Chislet, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Poachers End Cottages, in the vicinity of the junction with Highstead.

The alternative route is via Highstead, Ford Hill, Maypole Road, Old Tree Road, Church Lane and Boyden Gate Hill.

IFFIN LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Iffin Lane, Canterbury, on or after 12 September 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative routes are as follows

Whilst closed between Chartham Downs Road & Merton Lane, via Chartham Downs Road, Faussett Hill, Nackington Road, Merton Lane and Stuppington Lane

Whilst closed between Merton Lane and New House Lane, via Stuppington Lane, Nunnery Fields, Old Dover Road, A28 Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, Wincheap and Hollow Lane

KIRBY'S LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works in connection with a new residential development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kirby's Lane, Canterbury, on or after 10 September 2012 until July 2013, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the rear of 6/8 Station Road.

There will be no access for through traffic; however access remains from either end of Kirby's Lane up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via St Dunstan's Street and Station Road West.

MOLEHILL ROAD, CHESTFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Molehill Road, Chestfield, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Thornden Wood Road, Greenhill Road, A2990 Thanet Way and Chestfield Road.

WESTBROOK LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of trial excavations in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 6.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed between the junction with Sea Street and the entrance to the Recycling Centre.

There is no alternative route, but pedestrian access will be maintained

There is no alternative route.

HIGHWAYS-DARTFORD AREA

CANADA FARM ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works involving Replacing overhead lines , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canada Farm, Dartford, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Main Road and Rabits Road.

The alternative route is via Green street Green Road, Gills Road, Homesdale Hill, Shrubbery Road and Rabbits Road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

ALBERT ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and re-railing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albert Road Level Crossing, Deal, on or after 29 September 2012, as shown below.

Albert Road, Deal will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 29 September at 0.30 am until Sunday 30 September at 5.00 am.

The alternative route is via Albert Road, A258 Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, King Street, High Street and Ark Lane

COMMON LANE & VALLEY ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Common Lane & Valley Road, River, on or after 12 September 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

COMMON LANE, RIVER will be closed from 12 September 2012 for up to 3 days

The closure is from the junction with Lower Road to and including the junction with Valley Road

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Lower Road, Valley Road, Byllan Road and Lewisham Road

Northbound via Lewisham Road, Minnis Lane and Lower Rd

VALLEY ROAD, RIVER will be closed in 2 phases, as follows

Phase 1 - Between the junctions with Lower Road and Byllan Road, from 17 September for up to 2 days

The alternative routes are

Westbound via Lower Rd, Crabble Lane, Lewisham Road and Byllan Rd

Eastbound via Lewisham Road, Common Lane and Lower Road

Phase 2 - Between the junctions with Common Lane and Byllan Road from 19 September for up to 2 days

The alternative route is via Common Lane, Lewisham Road and Byllan Road

ST JAMES STREET, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St James Street, Dover, on or after 26 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Woolcomber Street and the White Horse Public House.

The alternative route is via A256 Woolcomber Street and A258 Castle Hill Road.

HIGHWAYS-GRAVESHAM AREA

NORWOOD LANE, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Essential carriageway patching and drainage works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norwood Lane, Meopham, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with from Nursery Road to Wrotham Road.

The alternative route is via Wrotham Road, Green Lane, Camer Road and Norwood Lane.

HIGHWAYS- MAIDSTONE AREA

CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 19 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from 'Sunhyll' to 'Elmscroft'.

The alternative route is via B2010 Lower Road, B2163 Ewell Lane, Charlton Lane.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CHART HILL ROAD CHART SUTTON MAIDSTONE

(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

Because Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Hill Road Chart Sutton, on or after 11 September 2012 for up to one day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed .

There will be no access for through traffic opposite Hill Veiw Cottage.

The alternative route is via Green lane, Forsham lane A274 Headcorn Road A274 North Street and Warmlake Road

A229 CHATHAM ROAD, BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works to a motorway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A229 Chatham Road, northbound slip, Boxley, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 7 week nights or until the works have been completed.

The A229 Chatham Road northbound slip between The Running Horse roundabout and Cobtree Roundabout will be closed.

The alternative route is coast bound motorway traffic via M20 to junction 5 London bound and northbound non-motorway traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return.

SEED ROAD, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seed Road, Otterden, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 15 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic from Rhode Farm to Rhode Fruit Farm.

The alternative route is via Slade Road, Lady Margaret Manor Road, Frangbury.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Thursday 27th September 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Couchman Green Lane, Staplehurst
Extent:	A229 Maidstone Road to Sweetlands Lane
Dates:	Start: 27th September 2012 End: 28th September 2012
Diversion:	A229 Maidstone Road/Station Road, Headcorn Road, Pile Lane
Road Name:	Church Hill, Boughton Monchelsea
Extent:	Butt Green Lane to Stable Cottage
Dates:	Start: 28th September 2012 End: 29th September 2012
Diversion:	Butt Green Lane, Loddington Lane, B2163 Heath Road
Road Name:	Hospital Road, Hollingbourne
Extent:	A20 Ashford Road to Greenway Court Road
Dates:	Start: 30th September 2012 End: 30th September 2012
Diversion:	A20 Ashford Road, Eyhorne Street, Greenway Court Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate footway improvement works to be undertaken by KCC Highways. For further information or comment please call Colin Garnham on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS-MAIDSTONE AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

CHATHAM ROAD AND ROYAL ENGINEERS ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the refreshing of road markings and replacement of reflective road studs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chatham Road and Royal Engineers Road, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 5 nights between 21.00 and 05.00 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from southbound off-slip to Cobtree roundabout, southbound slip to Running Horse Roundabout and Southbound on-slip to Royal Engineers Road

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with the southbound off-slip to Cobtree roundabout and the Southbound on-slip to Royal Engineers Road.

The alternative route is via Southbound off-slip to Cobtree Roundabout, Southbound slip to Running Horse roundabout, Southbound on-slip to Royal Engineers Road.

Also a 10mph speed restriction will be in place southbound lanes only from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Boundary with Medway to Southbound off-Slip to Cobtree Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS-SEVENOAKS AREA

BITCHETT GREEN ROAD, SEAL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

Because of a connection to a main sewer inspection chamber in the highway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bitchett Green Road, Seal, Sevenoaks, on or after 24th September 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Stone Street Road and Pond Lane.

The alternative route is via: Stone Street Road and Pond Lane.

CROWHURST LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of installation of new kerb lines, footpaths and resurfacing of road to new housing development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Forge Lane and Billett Hill.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Junction of Forge Lane to the junction of Billett Hill .

The alternative route is via: Forge Lane, A20 London Road, Fawkham Road, Brands Hatch Road, Fawkham Green Road.

HIGHWAYS-SHEPWAY AREA

DOUGLAS AVENUE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Douglas Avenue, Hythe, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A259 Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and High Street.

The Order prohibiting driving along High Street, Hythe between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm will be suspended, whilst Douglas Avenue is closed.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Douglas Avenue will be temporarily suspended to allow access up to and from the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS-THANET AREA

CHANDOS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chandos Road, Broadstairs, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Oscar Road.

The alternative route is via Oscar Road, Victoria Parade and Chandos Square.

HIGHWAYS-TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A26 QUARRY HILL ROAD, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC & RIGHT TURNS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic (including cycles) and prohibiting right turns on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Sunday 30th September 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 30th September 2012 End: 05:00hrs 1st October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	Prohibit right turn towards Tonbridge from southbound direction
Dates:	Start: 30th September 2012 End: 16th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 7h October 2012 End: 05:00hrs 8th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 8h October 2012 End: 05:00hrs 16th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	Prohibit right turn into Quarry Hill Road from northbound direction
Dates:	Start: 22nd October 2012 End: 16th November 2012
Diversion:	A26 Quarry Hill Road

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for the Highways Agency apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for parapet replacement and refurbishment on the viaduct. For further information or comment please call Nithiy Myuran on 0203 4332128.

SWANTON ROAD, MEREWORTH/WEST PECKHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT cabling works for a new connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swanton Road, Mereworth/West Peckham, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed its entire length.

The alternative route is via Stan Lane, Mereworth Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

HIGHWAYS -TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

ASHURST HILL, ASHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a railway bridge examination, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ashurst Hill, Ashurst, on or after 28 September 2012 for up to 1 night between 22:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A264 Ashurst Road, B2110 Groombridge Hill, B2110 Withyham Road, B2026 Edenbridge Road, A264 Ashurst Road.

FOXHOLE LANE, BRENCHLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxhole Lane, Brenchley, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Bramble Reed Lane to outside "Chestnut Cottage".

The alternative route is via Chestnut Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane.

HINKSDEN ROAD, BENENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hinksden Road, Benenden, on or after 25 September 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Coldharbour Road to Foxhole Lane.

The alternative route is via Coldharbour Road, Mill Street, Sponden Lane, Field Green.

ROSEMARY LANE, GOUDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rosemary Lane, Goudhurst, on or after 10 September 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic from A21 London Road to the East Sussex border.

The alternative route is via B2087 High Street Flimwell, A21 London Road.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 9th September 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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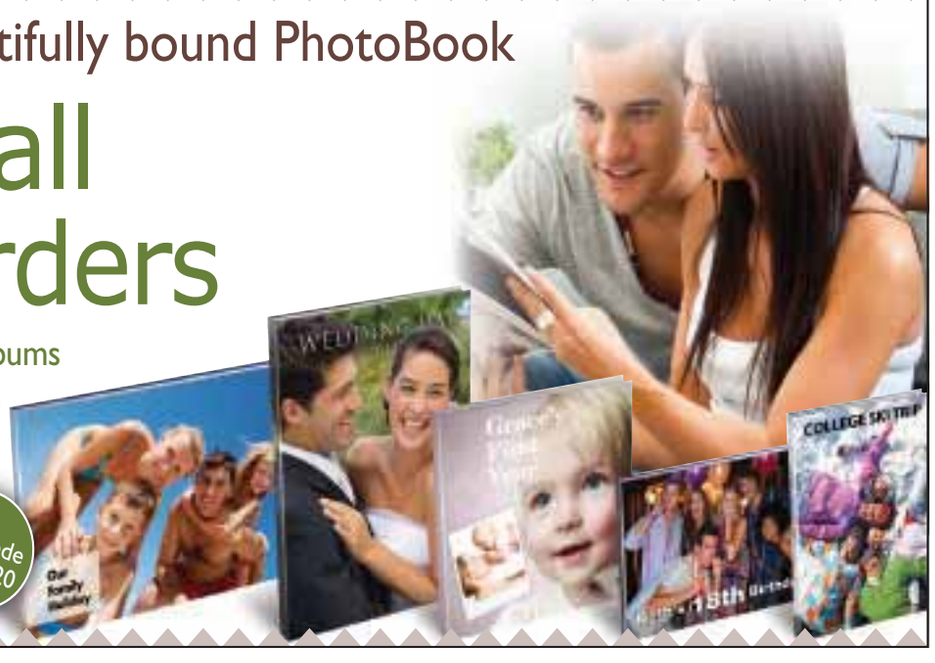
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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 25

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

DEDICATION OF A PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AT LEYSDOWN PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT RELATING TO LAND AT LEYSDOWN, ISLE OF SHEPPEY

The above named Agreement, made on 24 February 2012 under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, has been made by the Kent County Council. The effect of the Agreement is to upgrade to bridleway status:-

A 3.0 metre wide strip of part of the length of Public Footpath ZS52 which commences at its connection with Public Bridleway ZS45 at NGR TR 0424 6938 (Point A) and runs in a northerly direction for 64 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath ZS52 at NGR TR 0425 6944 (Point B). This 3.0 metre wide strip will be re-numbered ZS52A.

A 3.0 metre wide strip of Public Footpath ZS53 which commences at its connection with Public Footpath ZS52 at NGR TR 0425 6944 (Point B) and runs in an easterly direction for 127 metres to its connection with Shellness Road (U18774) at NGR TR 0437 6946 (Point C). This 3.0 metre wide strip will be re-numbered ZS52A.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Public Path Creation Agreement and accompanying plan have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of the Kent County Council's Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies may also be purchased there.

Under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, there is no right of an objection and the Agreement has taken immediate effect.

For further information please contact
Colin Finch - 01622 221568

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3 IN THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS AT WADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath TE3 between the junction with Public Footpath TE1A (NGR TR 265 668) and the A299 Thanet Way from the 24th September 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before November 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473 IN THE PARISH OF AYLESFORD

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MR473, between the junction with Public Footpath MR473A/KH36 (NGR TQ 741 585) and Lock Lane, Aylesford from the 24th September 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th November 2012.

The path is to be closed to install storm drains between the Travis Perkins site and the River Medway and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 9th September 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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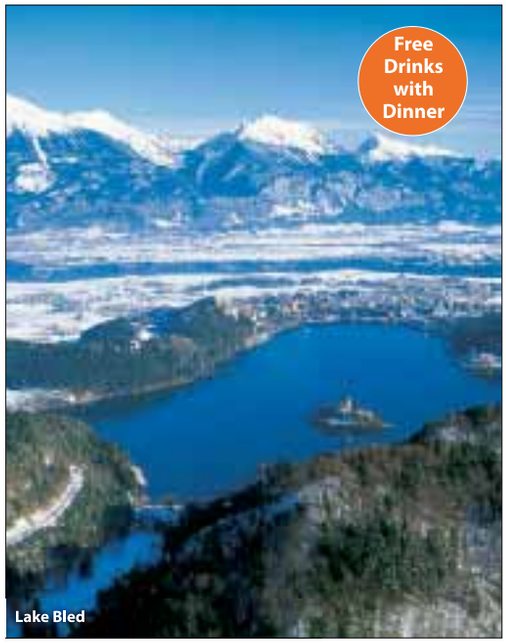
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23 December, 2012

Christmas in Bled, Slovenia is just magical - framed by the snow-capped peaks of the majestic Julian Alps it is what everybody dreams of when they think about Christmas.

The Legend of the Sunken Bell is the highlight of the holiday - a unique theatrical spectacle set in the lake which tells the story of how the church on Bled Island came to get its famous wishing bell.

Slovenia is less than 2 hours flying time from Stansted airport and Lake Bled is just 30 minutes drive from Ljubljana airport.

In Bled, festivities include the Legend of the Sunken Bell, Christmas Arts and Crafts market, a Torch-lit walk by the lake, live music on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass in the local parish church followed by mulled wine at the hotel and a Christmas Concert.

At our lakeside hotel, wine, beer and soft drinks are included with dinner each evening.

INCLUDED:

• 4 nights half board+ at the Jelovica Hotel, Lake Bled, including wine by the glass, beer & soft drinks with dinner • 1 lunch • Return Easyjet flights from Stansted to Ljubljana – checked in bag up to 20kg included • Services of our representative in Slovenia & all transfers

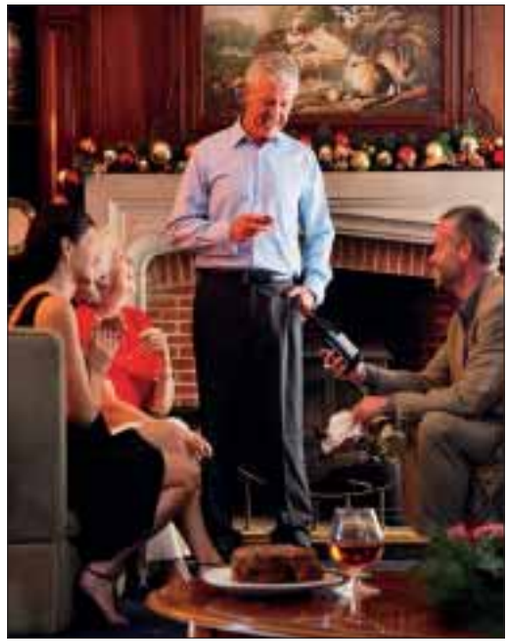
Christmas & New Year Self-Drive Deals

at Brook Hotels

2 to 4 nights half board+

From £169pp

Quote BROOK-KOS



December 2012

Enjoy a great value festive break at one of these super Brook Hotels.

Honiley Court is a 4-star hotel in rural Warwickshire.

Tewkesbury Park is a 4-star golf and country spa hotel set in stunning Gloucestershire countryside.

Mollington Banastre Hotel & Spa is a delightful 4-star country hotel in the village of Mollington in Chester.

Redwood Country Club is a 4-star hotel is set in 16 acres of woodland countryside near Bristol.

Christmas package includes: 3 or 4 nights en-suite room • Afternoon tea on arrival • Welcome drink • Christmas Eve Mulled Wine & Mince Pie • 3 or 4 breakfasts & dinners • Christmas day lunch • Boxing Day Gala night • Note dinner on Christmas Day will be a light buffet supper

New Year's Eve package includes: 2 nights en-suite room • Afternoon tea on arrival • Glass of bubbly • 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners including Gala New Year's Eve dinner and Disco (smart dress, not black tie)

Date	Location	Nights	Price pp	Quote
24 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	3	£229	XH12-3
23 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	4	£299	XH12-4
24 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	3	£249	XT12-3
23 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	4	£339	XT12-4
24 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	3	£249	XM12-3
23 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	4	£339	XM12-3
24 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	3	£249	XR12-3
23 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	4	£339	XR12-4
30 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	2	£169	NH12
30 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	2	£189	NR12



Slovenia & Croatia Coast & Country Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Air

8 Days, half board

£759pp

Quote HB9-KOS

26 September, 2012

Slovenia must be one of Europe's best kept secrets, from the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled, this former Yugoslavian state surprises and delights new visitors. Neighbouring Croatia is perhaps better known. Here we visit Rovinj - widely regarded as Croatia's most picturesque town, and cruise on the Limska Draga Fjord. We stay 4 nights on Slovenia's coast, then 3 nights at Lake Bled. The journey from the coast to Bled includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway, one of Europe's great rail journeys.

INCLUDED:

• Return British Airways flights Gatwick (13.50 departure) to Venice

• Escorted throughout abroad

• 7 nights half board hotel stay

• Excursions

• All transfers abroad



Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

£159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill Rythe Resort on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy hearty hospitality, great entertainment, including Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons. We've also got one of our favourite marching bands, the Dagenham Girls Pipers, on the bill. To keep the party mood alive there's a 99p Bar every night.

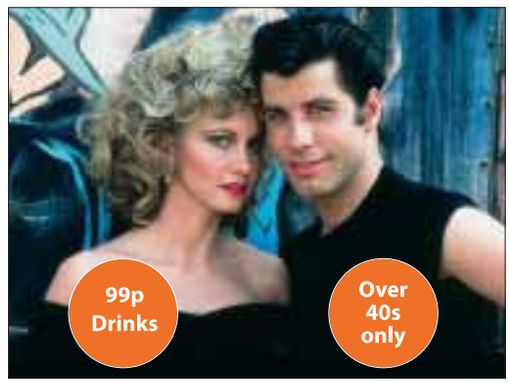
INCLUDED:

• 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening

• Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band

• 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts

• 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available



Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive - 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote XP11-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, a 99p Bar every night, ground-floor chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:

• 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night • Variety Entertainment every night featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities - upgrades available

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly – Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value – Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful – Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Exclusive Party Breaks at Pontin's Pakefield

Meet your perfect partner through your local trusted dating service

Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad



Women Seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/S male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTM a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 40's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**



DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

VICKY 26yr old pretty blonde, athletic, good job, great house/car, single and getting bored, looking for male to entertain me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394459**

I'M Dawn a petite medium built female who enjoys most things looking for fun, love and companionship. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394129**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

JUDY slim blue eyed blonde, 35yrs, great fun, intelligent, educated, N/S, seeks witty guy for gym dates, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393135**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

LORRAINE 32yr old petite attractive female looking for male to turn up the heat on our rather gloomy summer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393119**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

CLARE 36yr old nurse, pretty, slim, active, all round good catch, seeking male 40-70yrs for mature loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393479**

SUSAN gorgeous 29yr old lonely Scottish lass new to area and at loose end, seeking reliable caring male up to 40yrs for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393465**

JACQ 45, slim, natural blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks confident guy for company/friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391564**

KAREN 38 slim and attractive seeking confident professional for companionship, status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392407**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky guy, likes meals out, cinema, country walks, own business/home, seeking romance with loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392894**

ROY 43, 6ft, attractive, GSOH, likes gym, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392598**

ANDY businessman likes animals, meals out, seeking happy, outgoing female to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395591**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

CHARLES 51, GSOH, seeking female, 25-65 for cuddles and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395513**

SIMON looking for female for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392642**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

BUBBLY fun loving single mum, 47, seeks Knight in shining armour, 38-55 to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392951**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for day time fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DAN 18, easygoing, looking for sweet, petite female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395215**

ROMANTIC white male, early 50's, tall, dark, attractive, many interests, seeks tall, black lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395213**

MALE seeking easygoing female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395157**

CHAS GSOH, looking for friendship, leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395119**

SUSSEX male, 50, attractive, seeks N/S, younger, attractive female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395019**

ANDREW 6ft 4ins, medium build, outdoor type, gardener, GSOH, likes walks, animals, cycling, seeks N/S female to brighten up life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392476**

TED 58, GSOH, likes travel, cooking, gardening, DIY, music, films, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394905**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

EXPERIENCED fella 55, good fun, seeks lady, 35-55 for exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393797**

MALE 56, seeks adventurous lady, 46-55 for uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393763**

HAPPY go lucky male, 50, GSOH, seeks female for relationship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393739**

AFFECTIONATE fun loving male, 50, good company, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female to share good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393649**

STEWART 50, 5ft 11ins, likes dancing, seeking companionship, maybe more with lady 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392178**

BRETT 35, enjoy socialising, cinema, travel, gym, seeking female, 25-35. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393883**

44YR old single man, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, N/S, seeking lady, late 30-40's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392132**

MICHAEL dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft 9ins, outgoing, likes cinema, meals out, walks, animals, looking for friendship, romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394863**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

SARAH TV, seeking male for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396169**

CHRIS 5ft 7ins, medium build, submissive, seeks male 50 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396029**

Friendship

STRAIGHT lady, 60, young outlook, seeks single, unattached friends for socialising, travel, theatre, lunch etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392318**

SINGLE straight lady, seeking similar ladies for nights out, shopping, coffee and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391102**

BERNIE 43 straight looking for single ladies for socialising, nights out, coffee, shopping, bowling and cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389490**

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When you see a 📷 symbol, this mean the member has a photo. Text **PIC397**(space)the advertisers mailbox number, and send to 88833* to receive it straight to your mobile.

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Show us your smile!

Text your solo picture along with your 6 digit mailbox number(space)4 digit pin No. under your photo, to 0779 366 6363. Or email: support@jmediauk.co.uk with your Mailbox & pin number.

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Stonehenge comes to town for the Biennale

SEE PAGE 40

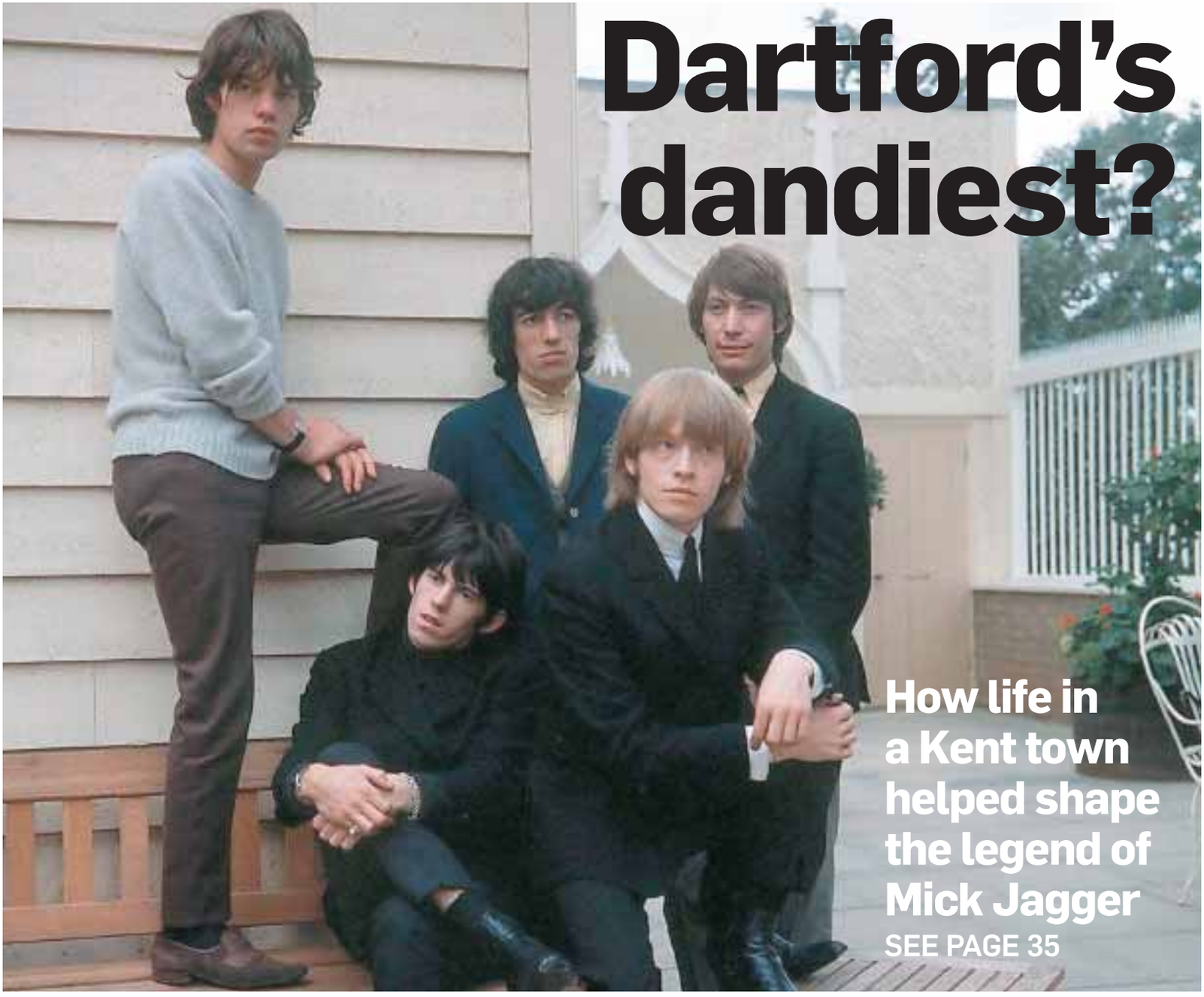


FAIRY FREAK

Scary museum has just got a little bit scarier

SEE PAGE 41

Kent Weekend



Dartford's dandiest?

How life in a Kent town helped shape the legend of Mick Jagger

SEE PAGE 35

PLUS: When an English restaurant showed the rest of the world how to really make a meal - **food and drink p37** A market on the up? - **property p42** Mercedes has an estate game-changer - **driving p45**







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www.theviewguesthousemargate.co.uk

THE INTERVIEW

Christopher Andersen

The creation of a Rolling Stone

Nick Ames discovers how Mick Jagger's formative years in Kent played a critical part in the making of the legendary frontman

FOR 50 years, Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger has rocked hard both on and off the stage – and the band are set for a series of sell-out dates later this year, proving their massive longevity.

Now the personal life of the musical icon is the subject of a controversial new biography from author Christopher Andersen.

From bedding David Bowie to losing his virginity to a "nymphomaniac Italian nurse" while working as an orderly in a mental hospital, Dartford-born Jagger's past is on full display in Christopher Andersen's book, Mick: The Wild Life And Mad Genius Of Jagger.

The book also details how an accident at school helped shape his singing career.

"Many of Mick's peers have self-destructed, but he's still here and more relevant than ever," Andersen told me.

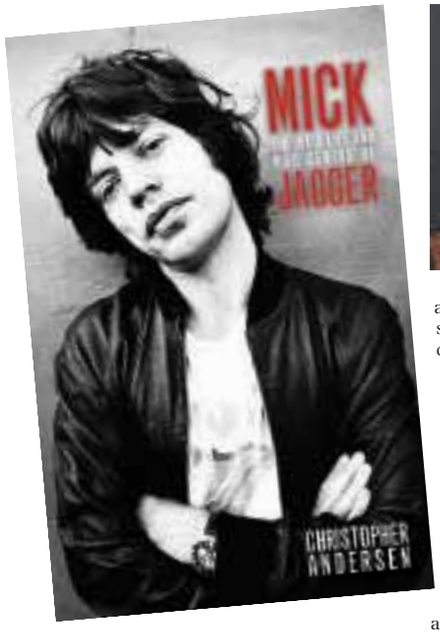
Speaking from New York, he revealed how he had researched the singer's Kentish roots: "I've written more than 20 books on figures like Mick and discovered that most of the people whose lives they've touched are eager to share their memories. It's a way of staking their own small claim on a piece of history. Those who knew Michael Philip Jagger during his formative years were no different.

"When I actually began working on the book several years ago, there were plenty of local people – Mick's parents and family members, neighbours, teachers, classmates, team-mates, girlfriends and so on – who were more than willing to share what they knew about Mick's early years growing up in Dartford.

"After spending some time in his home town, I think I walked away with a keen sense of what went into the making of this man who has had such an enormous impact on modern culture.

"Mick owes everything – his musical genius and creativity, and the unparalleled success that went with it – to his parents and the suburban environment he grew up in. He was totally shaped by his childhood in postwar Britain, as an artist and as a man. 'My mum is very working class,' Mick once said, 'and my father is bourgeois... so I come from somewhere in between. Neither one thing or the other'.

"It was from his mum Eva, an Australian-born Avon lady who struggled to maintain



appearances, that Mick got his love of American music – at first the big-band music of Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller, and later jazz and the blues.

"Joe Jagger, a physical-education professor, instilled in Mick an abiding sense of self-discipline by putting him through gruelling exercise drills every morning. Much was expected of Mick. As a result, he was the perfect student in school. All that changed, of course, when he got to high school and realised he could earn the respect of his peers not by trying to please his teachers but by disobeying them.

"He remained an excellent student, of course, but he also flouted what was then a strict code at Dartford Grammar by wearing tight jeans



EARLY YEARS: Christopher Andersen's book tells how Mick Jagger's life growing up in Dartford was a key part in his development as a musical icon

and began arguing with his teachers. There are so many small and yet pivotal events that occurred during those years.

"Most people don't know that when he was 17 he was captain of Dartford Grammar's basketball team. During one game, he bumped into another player and accidentally bit off the tip of his own tongue, swallowing it.

"His friends told me the accident changed the way he spoke, taking a bit of the polish off – and more importantly, the way he sang. He sounded grittier, more hard-edged – the Mick we listen to today. That one incident changed the course of music, in a way.

"Keep in mind that we're not talking just about Mick. Keith [Richards] was born just five months after Mick in Dartford's Livingstone Hospital and was also shaped by his childhood there, although on the wrong side of the tracks.

"They first met aged seven, went in different directions and famously rekindled their relationship 11 years later when they bumped into each other at Dartford train station on the way to their respective schools – Keith to Sidcup Art College and Mick to the London School of Economics."

Andersen's research enabled him to get to grips with Jagger's complex personality, at least to a degree: "People throw around the words 'icon' and 'unique' a lot, and most celebrities are neither. But Mick is the real deal – an original, a force of nature, someone who really defies definition other than to ask the question: Can you imagine our cultural landscape without Mick Jagger in it?

"Mick is such a tangle of contradictions: the self-styled street tough with the refined tastes of an English gentleman, the world-class hedonist who possesses enormous self-discipline, the dabbler in bisexuality and androgyny with boundless heterosexual appetites, the knight of the realm who for more than half a century in the spotlight gloried in being rock's most outrageous, rule-smashing hell-raiser."

Richards is just as much a part of the Stones as Jagger, and the favourite of many fans.

Andersen defined their relationship: "All the women in Mick's life told me that none of them could compete with the love Mick and Keith have for one another. They have a 50-year-long marriage – a rocky, stormy, complicated marriage, but a marriage nonetheless.

"The Stones are the greatest band in the history of rock and roll. Mick and Keith are also one of the most important songwriting teams in history. In addition to all the Grammys and being in the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame, they have also been inducted into the Songwriters Hall Of Fame alongside the likes of the Gershwins, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin.

"But Mick transcends even that, because he's more than a great songwriter and a mesmerising performer. He is one of those larger-than-life figures in the pop-culture pantheon with Elvis and Marilyn Monroe. Only he didn't have to die young to get there... clever guy."

And how did the knighthood change the one-time bad boy of rock?

"Not as much as the deaths of his parents. That really shook him up, made him think more about mortality and his legacy.

"He's finally in what seems to be a stable relationship with a woman who understands him – American designer L'Wren Scott. Like so many stars who've lived undeniably wild lives, Mick would probably rather have people forget all that and think of him as the pillar of the establishment he is today: Sir Michael Jagger."



The Retirement Show

How can I stay in my own home?

How will I find someone to look after Mum?

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th September 2012

10:30am - 3:30pm

Free Entry

The exhibition for families, carers and retirees with information on the options for help and support in retirement while at home and when home is no longer manageable

Exhibitors include

- ★ Home support services
- ★ Carers support organisations
- ★ Specialist support groups
- ★ Government funding information
- ★ Disability and mobility services
- ★ Food and delivered services
- ★ Safety and security
- ★ Independent living options
- ★ Care and support living options
- ★ Charities helping with particular conditions

Complimentary food tasting

Who pays for the help I need?

Where can I go for advice?

The Retirement Show is being held at the

Signature Miramar 165 Reculver Road Beltinge Herne Bay CT6 6PX

Tel: 01227 374488

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Disabled parking at the front of the Miramar

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Exhibitor Information

There is no charge for the exhibition space.

Exclusive exhibitor in each category.

Set up on Thursday 13th September between 10 and 4.

Set up on Friday 14th September from 9am. Show starts at 10:30.

Please bring your own tables, stands and cables.

Electrical connections available.

You may come in and view the space at any time by prior appointment.

If you have an extra-large stand or require extra space to display equipment please advise us as soon as possible.

The exhibition spaces will be locked overnight.

For all enquiries or to book your space please call

01227 374488

and ask for Becca or Stella

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Traditional English beats the Italian and all the rest of 'em

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

A long walk is one of the best preparations for a decent meal, and, setting off from Walpole Bay in Cliftonville on my way along the coast to Broadstairs, it wasn't long before my thoughts turned to food. My friend and I discussed the options as we devoured the yards on one of the best walks anywhere in south-east England.

She had been brought up in Thanet, and one of the many places she had called home in her early years was Broadstairs itself. And so it was that I was told of a great array of places to dine and all sorts of cuisine. Italian, French, Chinese, Thai, Spanish... the list went on and on.

And when we arrived, I really was struck by the range of restaurants, cafés, bars and so on available in what is quite a small town.

Our first thought was pizza or pasta – so Italian it was. However, our choice wasn't a success. The place was pretty busy, but quite a few tables were free. However, when we said that we hadn't booked we were told there was no place for us.

"Sod that!" said my companion, a professor of English and philosophy...

In truth, neither of us were really bothered, primarily because we had already seen somewhere that looked interesting.



Aqua 43 is a small eatery, somewhere between a café and a restaurant and serving traditional English dishes. No pretence, no booking necessary... just the basics of good food, enough variety when it comes to choosing a drink and a warm welcome.

A family-run restaurant since 1972, Aqua 43 is known for its use of local produce. Fish is freshly caught, meat comes from local farms, and it even has its own hens to provide the eggs.

I bought a Peroni beer, which was served at the proper (cold) temperature, and we also ordered a bottle of red Merlot.

With our Italian friends down the road still in mind, we discovered that such a wine should have a nuance of black cherries, a faint herbal bouquet and even a hint of chocolate. I am sure it did, as both of us pronounced it delicious as we ordered our food.

We needed something substantial after our walk, so it was meat all the way. Porkburger with cheese was my choice, along with a portion of chips, while my companion's was an equally no-nonsense lambburger.

Coffee followed, along with a sticky sponge pudding with custard that we both tackled and just about managed to finish.

As someone who exists largely on take-away Chinese and office biscuits, I was surprised how much I enjoyed what was a rare choice for me.

My companion felt the same and good old-fashioned home-cooking won the day – beating the likes of Thai, Chinese, French, Spanish and, most satisfyingly of all, Italian. A happy day, made even happier by the bill – two main courses, an excellent beer, a fine bottle of wine, coffee and dessert coming to just £35.20.

Nick Ames

■ **Aqua 43**
43 Albion Street, Broadstairs CT10 1NE
Telephone 01843 862559



Ambrette manager is up for top gong

MARGATE restaurant-manager Tobias Barfoot has been named in the last four of the UK Restaurant Manager Of The Year competition.

Barfoot, above, who is well known for his role at The Ambrette, has made it to the semi-finals being held at the luxurious Babylon eatery at Kensington Roof Gardens in London.

Now in its fourth year, the Academy Of Food And Wine Service is organising the competition to reward the UK's most talented restaurant managers, increase awareness of this vital role and raise the profile of the profession.

The winner will receive a trophy, a certificate and a stay in the luxurious suite at the fashionable MAve boutique hotel in Manhattan. He or she will also undertake a session at a top New York restaurant.









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If you have any questions regarding The Wedding Show 2012 or Kent BRIDE please contact Lisa Smith 01303 817057 or Tracy Morgan 01303 817083





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Seeing stars
Play boasts a stellar cast

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Mon to Sat, September 17-22
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

AN all-star cast will perform the Olivier Award-winning show The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice at The Orchard.

Starring Coronation Street's Beverley Callard, The X Factor's Ray Quinn and sitcom star Joe McGann, the show will bring tears and laughter.

The story, like the hit film, is set up north and follows the life of shy Little Voice, played by Jess Robinson, who spends most of her time immersed in her late father's record collection while perfecting her astonishing impersonations.

Encouraged by electrician Billy (Quinn) and the hapless talent scout Ray Say (McGann), Little Voice heads for stardom. Or does she? There are songs from divas such as Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland.

Dickens man Down Under
Mr Micawber

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, September 14
www.trinitytheatre.net

IN celebration of the Charles Dickens bicentennial, Katapult Productions is touring a play featuring one of the writer's most loved characters, Wilkins Micawber Esquire.

In a new show, ever-optimistic Mr Micawber bids farewell to his native setting alongside David Copperfield and takes his family to Australia, confident their lives will change for the better.

However, more than keen optimism is needed to survive in the new world that is Melbourne in 1855 as Micawber's life becomes shrouded in mystery.

Katapult, whose spoof Dick Barton Special Agent was a hit across the county, can be expected to put on another top show with Mr Micawber.



An orchestra you can join
Fiddles of fun

Deal Maritime Folk Festival
Fri to Sun, September 14-16
01304 370220
dealmaritimefolkfestival.org

THE 16th Deal Maritime Folk Festival promises to pack the town with music and dance.

The festival has been running in many guises since 1996 with its mission to showcase the varied traditions of folk and world music.

New in this year's list of events will be the Festival Folk Orchestra, a pop-up orchestra created over the weekend at two workshops – any musician of any ability and with any instrument will be welcome.

The orchestra will then be performing at the Astor's Sunday concert.

Headline acts during the weekend include BBC Radio Two folk-award-winner Brendan Power, fiddle sensations Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll and a top folk songwriter in the shape of Ron Trueman-Border.



Introducing fip-fok
It's all go for CoCo

The Marlowe Studio, Canterbury
Friday, September 28
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

HOT new Kent band CoCo And The Butterfields will play The Marlowe Studio next month.

The special gig will celebrate the launch of their debut EP, which has already attracted interest from music critics and fans alike.

Band members Tom Twyman, Dulcima Showan, Jamie Smith, Micah Hyson and James Todd are pioneers of a new music genre: the crossover of hip-hop, folk and pop – or fip-fok.

Since meeting on the Canterbury busking circuit a year ago, the group have won national acclaim and won the UK Live And Unsigned competition, having performed to a sell-out audience at the O2 last month.

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Visual art
Performance and film

Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable
01843 596 194
www.whitstablebiennale.com

THE Whitstable Biennale continues its festival of contemporary visual art.

The show of ambitious and experimental new works in film and performance will run until Sunday, September 16.

Packed with live performances, screenings, exhibitions, talks and events, the Biennale presents three programmes across the three weekends of the festival, exploring the overlap between film and performance.

The programme includes performances at stages around the harbour area, which is also an open invitation for impromptu performances.

There will also be a series of events for youngsters, with Gareth Moore's set of short children's films created by international artists. For a full list of events, look online for times and locations.



Carry on camp
Julian Clary's stage return

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Saturday, September 22
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

HE has been a TV presenter, stand-up comedian and now a Big Brother contestant, but Julian Clary will get back to his roots with a new live show at Folkestone this month.

After leaving the reality show, Clary will return to his home county of Kent with Position Vacant: Apply Within and he says he won't be leaving town empty-handed.

The master of camp is scouring the land in search of love, promising to leave "no straight unturned".

With questionnaires and games, the show is sure to entertain the Folkestone audience before it sets off across the UK.

The show is recommended for people aged 16 and over. Tickets are priced at £16.



The world of crafting
From textiles to bees

Hever Castle, near Edenbridge
Friday to Sunday, September 14-16
01732 865224
www.hevercastle.co.uk

HEVER Castle hosts the 2012 Country Life event celebrating the skills and traditions of a rich variety of talented craftspeople.

You can enjoy demonstrations of country crafts ranging from trug-making, wood-turning and wood-carving to ceramics and felt-making.

Spinners, weavers and dyers will explain how to produce textiles and you can get advice on how to keep hens and bees. To whet your appetite further, there will be a mouthwatering selection of food and drink to sample.

There will also be a display of patchwork quilts and wall-hangings by members of The Quilters' Guild as well as art, photography, lace-making and a portrait-painter.

Broadside!
Cavalier ready for gun duty

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Saturday, September 15
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham's very own Second World War destroyer HMS Cavalier will mark her own salute to the 40s by firing a broadside using all three of her 4.5-inch guns at midday on Saturday, September 15.

The shots will mark the first day of the annual Salute To The '40s event and will also be the first broadsides fired from an operational Royal Naval ship since HMS Zulu on her return home from overseas in 1984.

Three rounds will be fired from A, B and Y guns on board Cavalier by the Historic Naval Gun Crew, a group of re-enactor volunteers who have assisted in restoring the ship's guns and who will be bringing the ship to life over the weekend festival.















Return of the Chiefs

Kaiser bout that then!

Winter Gardens, Margate
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
Tickets on sale now
01843 292795/296111

INDIE group Kaiser Chiefs have confirmed that they will once again play in Kent.

Best known for songs like I Predict A Riot, Oh My Gosh and Ruby, the band will be heading to Margate as part of their UK tour for 2012-13, which has already seen them play Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

The tour follows the band's re-emergence this year with their new album, The Future Is Medieval.

This is another big band to confirm a show at the Thanet venue, following the sell-out Blur gig this summer and last month's announcement that Professor Green will play later this year.

Tickets are priced at £25.

A fairy, but not as you know it

Monstrous...

Old Town, Margate
07874 230005
www.margatemonstrosities.com
enquiries@margatemonstrosities.com

MARGATE'S fantastical Museum of Monstrosities has a stunning new exhibit.

The Bidadari Berbulu has a unique mix of physiological features, including the flying capabilities of a dragonfly and the sharp vision of a spider.

Originating in Malaysia, its name translates as Hairy Sprite... or you might know it as a fairy. But this is no Tinkerbell!

The bizarre exhibit joins such other oddities as a mermaid skeleton and a dragon's egg.

Forthcoming events include art-and-design tours and workshops for people looking to break into the world of film and theatre effects.

The museum is open from 11am-5pm until the end of September.





History focus

Get medieval for weekend

Bodiam Castle, near Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, September 8
01580 830196

SWAT up on your historical knowledge this weekend with a study day featuring the experts of Bodiam Castle.

On Saturday between 10am and 4pm, St Giles Church at Bodiam will host four guest lecturers speaking on the theme of medieval rural society.

Christopher Whittick will speak on manors and manorial custom in medieval times, while Dr Christopher Briggs will talk about medieval English peasants and the law.

Dr John Hare will speak on Battle Abbey, a medieval lord and his estates, while Lesley Boatwright is to talk medieval beliefs in miracles, including those attributed to Henry VI.

The event costs £40 per person and includes lunch.

Street fair

Join cavemen and Queen Vic

Addington Street, Ramsgate
Sunday, September 9
01843 582192
r.mortlock@lineone.net

QUEEN Victoria – or at least someone dressed to look very much like her – will be one of the star attractions at this year's Addington Street historical fair in Ramsgate.

The fair has been running for 25 years, but the holding of this year's event had looked unlikely until friends Carol Mortlock and Phyllis Leaney decided the show must go on.

Now visitors can look forward to street entertainers (including Punch and Judy), stalls hosted by anyone from cavemen to 1950s folk, face-painters and live music.

The area will be closed to traffic for the event, which runs from 10am to 4pm, when the raffle will be drawn.

The fair is being supported by Elephant Windows, while all money raised will be given to Kent Air Ambulance.



Price increase reverses fortunes of the market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE average price of a UK home rose by a surprising 1.3 per cent in August, confounding gloomy predictions from market analysts.

It was the biggest monthly increase in two-and-a-half years, according to the figures from Nationwide building society.

The increase reversed the falls of the previous two months and was significantly higher than any other monthly hike since January 2010.

The lender described the increase as "a little surprising" but said it would be wrong to read too much into one month's data.

The three-month figure shows a 0.5 per cent drop in prices, while the annual figures showed a drop of 0.7 per cent.

The society's chief economist, Robert Gardner, said the figures "provide evidence that conditions remain fairly stable".

He said: "This may be explained by the surprising resilience evident in the UK labour market, with further increases in employment in recent months, even though the UK economy has remained in recession."

Nationwide's index is based on values when a mortgage is approved by the lender, which are then weighted to produce the price of what is considered to be a typical house. This is in contrast to Land Registry figures, which are based on sale prices.

Mr Gardner said monthly price changes had been influenced by a number of one-off factors in 2012, such as the end of the stamp-duty holiday for first-time buyers.



STEADYING: The August rise reverses the trend of the previous three months

He said: "These factors cannot be controlled by the usual process of seasonal adjustment."

While prices have been up and down throughout the year, they remain well below the level they reached before the property market was so drastically hit by the recession.

According to Nationwide's latest analysis market, the average price of a UK home stands at £164,729, still 11 per cent down on the peak price of £186,044 recorded in October 2007 – the year before the economic downturn became apparent.

Regional variations continue to have an effect on figures. The price of homes across Kent has not been hit as hard by the decline as elsewhere in Britain. London continues to be the most resilient and the North East and South West among the most hard hit.

Trends towards London workers opting to live outside the capital have boosted the value of Kent homes, with factors such as the high-speed rail link and improved communications by road to the north of the county and Sheppey adding to the attractiveness of the county's properties.

However, activity within the market is still an area of concern. It remains low, with the average number of mortgages approved each month running at below 50,000 – about half of the level seen between 2005 and 2007.

Nationwide says first-time buyers who are still entering the market are putting an average of 29 per cent of their take-home pay towards mortgage repayments, compared with 40 per cent before the financial crisis – showing an increased level of awareness that the jobs market is still insecure.



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Greatstone, Kent
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Berwick, East Sussex
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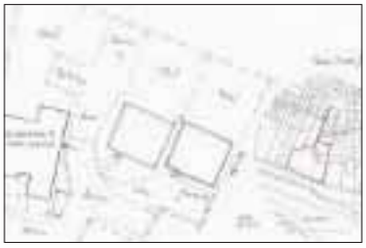
East Sutton, Kent
£150,000
Unusual opportunity with planning to replace existing commercial building with 2 bedroom single storey dwelling for holiday accomm.



East Malling
£250,000
Single plot with planning permission for a detached 3 bed chalet style property which will benefit from far reaching view



Five Ashes
Guide Price £500,000
Renovation or redevelopment project, subject to planning, of a detached property set in grounds of approximately 7 acres



Greenhithe, Kent
£350,000
Existing bungalow with planning refused for two dwelling and pending for one dwelling available subject to planning being granted



Chatham, Kent
£100,000
Existing maisonette with planning to convert into 2 x 2 bed apartments located in the town centre within a short walk from the seafront



Westdene, Brighton
Offers Invited
Site with a part built 3 bedroom detached Mediterranean style property for completion



Willingdon, East Sussex
Guide Price £550,000
Site with planning for the retention of the existing property and the erection of two detached chalet properties



Deal, Kent
Guide Price £360,000
A detached bungalow requiring refurbishment with planning for a detached 2 bed bungalow in the rear garden

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MOTORING NEWS

- New Mazda6 utilises green technology
- Subaru knocks cash off flagship model
- Alfa Romeo is keeping families happy



Hyundai accelerates back into the coupé market

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



MERCEDES-BENZ CLS SHOOTING BRAKE

Price: £49,360
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Audi A6 Avant

Mercedes-Benz shoots the estate class to new heights

HAVING created the trend for premium estates way back in 1978 with the legendary W123T, it's good to see Mercedes-Benz giving the type fresh impetus.

The newcomer, priced from £49,360, is based on the elegant CLS four-door coupé and has to be the coolest estate car on the market.

Not that you are allowed to call it an estate, which has always been viewed by the industry as a downmarket term; M-B has chosen to label this low-slung example as the CLS Shooting Brake, reviving a rather archaic word used in 19th-century Britain to describe a vehicle for carrying the posh to and from game-shooting.

Indeed, when the German marque launched its tailgated version of the W123 saloon, it simply added the letter 'T' to stand for touring and transport – the word 'estate' seemingly verboten. Of course, there is a price to be paid for the Shooting Brake's sensuous lines, so it is more a lifestyle estate – the type designed to suggest a sporting and country life rather than meet its needs.

So ultimate load capacity is not as good as M-B's classic load-lugger, the E-Class Estate, which offers a boot capacity of 695 litres with rear seats up and a cavernous 1,950 with them down. The Shooting Brake offers 590 and 1,550 respectively but does come with a powered tailgate, split/fold rear seats, self-levelling rear air suspension and, unlike its coupé sister, five seats.

And maybe that load space is not so challenged anyway when you check out key rivals to the E-Class, the BMW 5 Series Touring (560/1,670 litres) and Audi A6 Avant (565/1,680 litres).

Merc salespeople will no doubt argue that if you want a lifestyle wagon anyway, why worry about a few lost litres of space when you can have extra litres of style?

Turning now to litres of power, the new car is offered with two extremes in a range headed by the fairly silly V8 AMG version, which also enjoys its own label as the 'Sport Shooting Brake'.

Priced from £83,030, this narrowly escapes the maximum road tax bracket, but its 235g/km of CO_2 emissions will still cost you £460 a year and your environmentalist neighbours' sniffs of disdain, while you will also struggle to get anywhere near the official combined figure of 28mpg.

Most sales will involve the two real-world diesels, then: the entry model CLS 250 CDI BlueEfficiency producing 204bhp, with a combined fuel consumption of 53.3 mpg and CO_2 emissions of 139 g/km; and the CLS 350 CDI BlueEfficiency (from £53,000) with 265bhp, combined fuel consumption of 47.1 mpg, and 161 g/km CO_2. All versions have a seven-speed auto transmission as standard.

The new CLS Shooting Brake range is available to order now for November delivery.



GOOD-LOOKING: Space is sacrificed for style but, honestly, the Shooting Brake is such a classy model that you probably won't mind

DON'T LIKE

... having to find fault. This looks like a sure-footed move by Mercedes-Benz after seeing its premium estate business nibbled away.

NOT SURE

... too many will go for the bonkers AMG V8 model, which will be juicy and a bit brash for some, but the model oozes class generally.

REALLY LIKE

... how Mercedes-Benz has looked at the premium estate sector it created and come up with a fresh alternative. Look out for copies!

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Get your Citigo in go-faster stripes

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE'S more to the new Skoda Citigo than meets the eye.

First off, for a cheap car – from £7,630 for the three-door version and £7,980 for the five-door – it ticks lots of boxes and will make many would-be car-buyers ask 'What more do I want?'. Secondly, it's a clone, with marginal differences from its sister models, the VW Up and Seat Mii.

Does this matter? Well, such 'badge engineering' didn't work well for British Leyland, but there is little profit in small cars so it's not hard to see why VW took this approach rather than build individual cars on a shared platform as it does with the Skoda Fabia, Seat Ibiza and VW Polo, for instance.

Besides, there is already a precedent on the market in the form of the Toyota Aygo/Citroën C1/Peugeot 107 clone, which the Citigo and its sisters upstage considerably.

As the cheapest of the three newcomers, though, the Citigo is least likely to suffer from the badge-engineering jibe, while the Up – excellent though the packaging is – might seem like an expensive badge-buying exercise.

Skoda has also come up with a great name for its new sixth-model line; Citigo describes exactly what this car is about, not that it isn't also capable of hitting the motorway.

Admittedly, there are big expanses of bare metal and cheap plastic, but it all looks like it will last, while the 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine is extremely flexible.

It's offered with a 60PS (59bhp) or 75PS (74bhp) output, but you would struggle to notice the difference in town, since low-down pulling power is roughly the same. Only when the 75PS stretches its little legs does extra power higher up the range become evident.

So if you can't afford the dearer 75PS models (from £9,860), don't worry too much; on the evidence of our 60PS mid-range SE spec car, the little engine revs well. Allied with a crisp gearchange and steering combination, the Citigo can be hustled around nicely.

The engine can be raucous – although that's part of the fun in cut-and-thrust traffic – but it settles surprisingly well on the motorway.

Low emissions means some versions are exempt from road tax, while most are zero in year one with £20/year thereafter. An average of 60+mpg is possible on all versions.

The big news is the enormous cabin; it's as much a masterpiece of cubic engineering as the original 1960s Mini, with excellent leg, head and elbow room for such a small car.

It has four seatbelts, but you wonder if Skoda and its sister brands have been too modest here since you could squeeze three in the back.

Nor is this room at the expense of boot space, which is phenomenal and a major embarrassment to the rival Aygo/107/C1 – specifying a spare wheel incurs very little penalty on space.

The dashboard is logical and stowage facilities are great; the centre console has a cup-holder with slotted flexible rubber lid to hold a smartphone angled towards the driver.

There is some evidence of cost-cutting such as the absence of passenger electric window operation from the driver's side. It might have been more sensible to mount both switches on the centre console as in the Fiat Panda.

However, the test car showed that for very little extra cash, the Citigo can be personalised and tricked out to look smart and even sporty. Ours wore black alloys and go-faster stripes – one broad, one nose to tail, and extra ones on the flanks. Come on, you have to go for those...

SKODA CITIGO SE 3-DR: PRICE £8,530



COOL: For a small car, the Citigo has certainly got a lot of get up and go with go-faster stripes and stylish black alloys

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero yr 1)
Best rival:	Fiat 500 Twin Air

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Mazda6 goes Skyactiv

ON a roll after its all-new CX-5 SUV, Mazda unveils its third-generation Mazda6 flagship model using even more of the marque's new Skyactiv environmental technology.

The handsome '6', arriving late 2012/early 2013, includes a fuel/alternator/engine-saving brake energy regeneration system that comes into play whenever the driver takes his foot off the accelerator.



Six grand off Scooby star

SUBARU is offering its high-performance WRX STI model at a knock-down price of £26,995 – a £6,000 discount.

A finance offer means the STI can be financed at under £300 a month, too. The car is also available with a further £1,599 upgrade to the 2.5-litre horizontally-opposed, four-cylinder Boxer engine, creating an all-wheel-drive flagship, the WRX STI 340R.



Hurry for the Giulietta deal

SEPTEMBER 30 marks the end of a £1,000 down + zero finance deal on Alfa Romeo's driver-pleasing Giulietta family hatch.

Though it looks and handles like a coupé, the Giulietta (from £17,660) manages to be a practical family car and also comes with peace of mind: a five-year warranty, five-year complimentary servicing plan and EuroNCAP's maximum five-star safety rating.

MOTORING

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Veloster Turbo – the real deal?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



HYUNDAI did not re-enter the coupé sector this year with quite the speed implied by the chosen car – the Veloster.

But the second stage is about to ignite: the beefier and more highly specified Veloster Turbo SE launches from Monday, September 24, at £21,995 – the standard car starts at £18,000.

The original's direct injection 138bhp 1.6-litre engine now has a turbocharger to raise output to a more racy 185bhp, and with a bit more low-down punch – just what the low-slung and distinctive Veloster needed. This allows a top speed of 133mph and acceleration from 0-62mph in 8.4 seconds.

The six-speed gearbox has wider gear ratios, and there's more for those drivers who liked the Veloster's looks but didn't think it could walk the talk; tweaked dampers make the car more taut and closer to British and European tastes.

Despite its sporting upsurge, though, the Turbo SE delivers not unreasonable CO_2 emissions of 157g/km and an official 40.9mpg on the combined cycle.

Hyundai reckons the new version can attack the likes of the VW Scirocco 1.4TSI and Astra GTC 1.6i 16v VVT Turbo – it also has an edge.

For the Turbo SE retains the standard car's unique door layout: two front doors plus a single rear door to allow easier access to the rear seats. Unlike the Mini Clubman (estate), which only has the third door on the offside for the UK, this rear door is fitted on the passenger side for this country but on the other side for left-hand-drive markets. This makes it a highly practical coupé for families with small children, but the Turbo SE also has also been beefed up visually to go with its enhanced performance.

The front bumper, radiator grille and front fog lights are new, while the rear benefits from a revised bumper, new fog-lamp design and round twin exhausts and diffuser.

A longer, wider rear spoiler with LED brake-light, 18-inch alloys and a red Turbo nameplate on the bootlid add to the sporting allure.

Inside, new leather seats with grey panels – also featuring 'Turbo' on the front ones – echo the extra exterior muscle.

Hyundai now has something to pick up and run with the baton dropped when it left the coupé market in 2009.

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Pictures: GARETH FULLER/PA



WINNERS: Colbourne, Storey and Zanardi, above, raced at Brands Hatch

PARALYMPICS

Dreams come true for Paralympians as Kent gets a taste of Games

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE excitement, the emotion, and the drama – it was all there.

Brands Hatch didn't fail to thrill and excite in four days of Paralympic road-cycling action this week at the sun-soaked track.

From Brit Sarah Storey taking her all-time Gold medal tally to double figures, to former racing driver Alex Zanardi holding his handbike aloft in celebration, it proved a truly inspirational event for those packed into the grandstand and spectators on the surrounding roads.

Italian Zanardi had previously been around the track in his days as a racing driver, twice finishing on the podium, but tragedy struck in 2001 when he lost both of his legs in a race in Germany. This week the 45-year-old picked up a gold in the H4 category time-trial, beating his competitor by 27 seconds.

"I worked very hard to get here," he said. "It was great to live such an experience at 45. This moment also brings a little bit of sadness for an adventure the last two years.

"When you are 20, you appreciate medals. When you are 40, you appreciate what you do every day. I enjoyed every day of training. I've had a magical adventure and this is a fantastic conclusion.

"With an engine pushing me, I didn't realise it was so hilly. It is very hard, but if I had to design a course, this is what I would have done.

"It is beautiful, hard, it suits my characteristics of an old man"

GB velodrome star Mark Colbourne, who was injured in a paragliding accident, claimed his third medal of the Games in the C1 Time Trial on Wednesday and was quick to praise the track.

"It's amazing," he said. "I know my coach wouldn't be very happy, but I'd like to go around here on a motorbike, to be honest with you – it would be great fun.

"If you look at the course, with my disability, with no hamstrings, no feet, no gluts [gluteus maximus] working – you put me on an 11 per cent hill, it's like someone's taken my batteries out. It does suit different disabilities – if your hamstrings are working, you're able to climb.

"I'm three and a half years post-operative now and they're still not firing – the gluts have almost disappeared.

"There's two sides of the coin for me, coming through my accident and having this dream – secondly, we lost my dad in February. It was a big loss for me and I feel I've done my mother proud, my daughter proud and ParalympicsGB very proud, and certainly Wales."

Sarah Storey became one of the most decorated Paralympians of all time on the same day by claiming her 10th medal. The 34-year-old from Manchester won two titles in the velodrome and added gold in the women's C5 16-kilometre time-trial.

Her Paralympic career began as a 14-year-old in Barcelona and she won five titles as a swimmer before a series of ear infections saw her turn her attentions to the bike.

Following two golds in 2008, including in the time-trial, Storey now has a hat-trick on home soil in her sixth Games and an equal number of cycling and swimming golds.

"I went into Beijing as a swimmer on a bike, almost a fish out of water. My body shape's changed a huge amount since then and now I'm firmly a cyclist," she said.

"To think I've done what I did in swimming, now on a bike, it's not sunk in at all. I'm not sure it ever will."

Picture: ADY KERRY



MEMORIES: Cook was a part of the T20 success

CRICKET

Youngsters help Kent's Cook into coaching career

SIMON Cook says he's sad to be leaving Kent but can look back with a lot of pride at what he's achieved in the last seven years.

The 35-year-old has decided to move on from the St Lawrence Ground after his contract came to an end.

Now the bowler is set to take up a career in coaching – something he has already been doing at the county with the help of his team-mates.

The former Middlesex paceman has passed his level 4 coaching award using young bowlers Matt Coles and Adam Ball as the subjects of his coursework for the last two and a half years, but coaching wasn't originally the aim.

"Coaching certainly wasn't one of the first things I thought about," he said. "It evolved from my time at Middlesex. I spent some time with the younger players and spoke to them and gave them some suggestions to help their game.

"That's the thing that's stuck with me: you can have a big impact on a younger player's game with a simple piece of advice that takes their game to the next level and helps them achieve their dream.

"I take a lot of enjoyment out of seeing the players I have worked with doing well.

"I will go away and do some coaching for the ICC or the ECB, maybe. I'm going to take a bit of time and see what happens."

Cook joined Kent in 2005 but began informal discussions a year earlier with the then Kent coach Paul Farbrace at a combined counties game with Middlesex and Kent playing Derbyshire.

"We ended up having a conversation on the boundary edge just talking about life and what was happening. We weren't really talking about contracts and it kind of went from there.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Kent. I live in Canterbury – I've bought a house here. I really like it because it's a family club and there's a family atmosphere around the town.

"I look back with a lot of pride at the fact we won the Twenty20 in 2007. We were the dominant team in one-day cricket, reaching many finals and really being the stand-out one-day side at that time."

He said he almost stayed under the terms of a new contract that would have seen him help the second side, while being available for the first team when needed, but it wasn't to be.

"That's sport, as they say. It's always sad to leave something that's been a good part of your life," he said. "I look back with fond memories of my time at Kent, but I also have to look forward."

He has been restricted to fewer first-team opportunities this season but has captained the second XI in recent months.

His 13-year first-class career has included 141 matches in which he has taken 342 wickets at an average of 32.14. He also scored 2,577 useful lower-order runs, including seven fifties.

FOOTBALL

No more light duties for Miles after op recovery

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE



BACK: Sonny Miles has returned to action with Tonbridge Angels after a frustrating summer

RETURNING to fitness has proved to be a double-edged sword for Tonbridge Angels youngster Sonny Miles.

The 21-year-old realised he needed a hernia operation at the end of last season and finally had it done this summer – despite the operation being cancelled – and then delayed because of a planned holiday.

It also meant he missed a footballer's worst nightmare – pre-season. But no sooner had he been given the go-ahead to start training again at the Blue Square South club than his light duties at the Sussex building site where he works were increased.

"I had to have three weeks off work because of the operation," he said. "My boss is quite lenient – when I came back I was doing light duties, but as soon as I said I was going to training again at the club, that was it."

He has had to get fit fairly quickly as suspensions and injuries have already had an impact on Tommy Warrilow's side. He was given a light introduction of 15 minutes two weeks ago, but then he played two 90-minute games on the Bank Holiday weekend after two red cards and a broken leg took their toll on the squad.

"The main thing was getting fit, because of missing pre-season," he said. "You can run the streets as much as you want but it matters on the pitch. It's been strange not being a part of pre-season."

It was the defender's first operation since breaking his foot as a five-year-old and has given him a new perspective on preparing for injuries, highlighting the need for medical insurance, which he took for granted before.

"I thought it was my groin at first, but it wasn't until I saw the lump I realised," he said. "From the outside it looks like nothing, but it's on the inside where all the stitches are. It was just one of those things that had to be done, really.

"I used to think it's not going to happen to me, so I didn't bother getting insurance. Tommy [Warrilow] has spoken about it quite a bit – I would definitely have it... most players do have some kind of insurance nowadays."

RUGBY

Haiti athletes stop by to say thanks and play touch rugby

SEVENOAKS Rugby Club has played a huge part in helping Paralympians in Haiti achieve their dream of competing on the world stage.

The club's under-14s coach Mike Wooldridge became involved in the Haiti Dream charity after his cousin Frederick died in the earthquake two years ago while working for the UN in the capital Port-au-Prince.

The charity is aiming to fight the stigma associated with disability, and has supported athletes in getting to the Paralympics as well as purchasing TV rights to show the games on the island.

And before they competed at the Games this week they stopped by the club to play touch rugby and to say thank you for holding a number of fundraising events for the charity.

Nephtalie Jean Louis and Josue Cajuste who represented their country in javelin and shot put were two of the three athletes to visit the club.

"It was amazing," said Wooldridge. "We showed them around the age groups, and



INSPIRED: Youngsters look on

amazingly Josue who has polio and half a leg, played a game of touch rugby. That was by far the most interesting thing for him. It was certainly inspirational."

Leon Gaisli is the third athlete representing Haiti. He lost his wife, eight young children and the use of his legs after the earthquake. He took part in the road cycling at Brands Hatch this week and may visit the club before he flies home next week.

The charity has raised £50,000 towards the project, with around £20,000 of that coming locally.

RUGBY

Strength in depth is key for ambitious Maidstone

MAIDSTONE manager Fin Davis is hoping his side have learnt their lesson after last season's four-game winless start which cost them a shot at the title.

They get their London League Three South East campaign underway next weekend at the same place they started last term - Bromley.

The defeat in south London was the first of four which effectively spelled the end of their hopes of going for promotion before they'd even started. After recruiting in key positions over the summer Davis is confident of a different start.

"We have strengthened our pack in key positions, and in the backs we have got some guys who will be interesting - without giving too much away," he said. "We are looking forward to a really good and positive season.

"We should be challenging for a place at the top. We have got a strengthened team, it feels stronger than last season at this time. We are in a better position to challenge for the title. We started badly last year, our first four games were disastrous which counted us

Picture: BOB HAYTON



START: Maidstone want right result

out of going for the league title at the beginning of the season. It obviously wasn't good enough, we wanted to win the league."

Of the trip to Bromley he said: "We know what can happen at Bromley. We know now how dangerous it can be playing away at their ground."

CRICKET



YOUTH: Wells are hoping to keep top players

Youngsters will help Wells fight back to the top flight after drop

TUNBRIDGE Wells chairman Steve Green insists the club can still prosper from its conveyer belt of youth who he feels can fire them straight back to the Premier Division after relegation last week.

An inconsistent league campaign ended in agonizing fashion at the Nevill last weekend as they lost by three runs to Blackheath when a win would have seen them safe.

Nine of the 11 players for Wells in that game came through the club's youth sides - a policy which Green insists will still be relied upon as they look to bounce back next season.

"We have got a very young side compared to others," he said. "We believe in bringing the talent through our youth section in the long-term.

"It's to make sure the club survives, we don't throw money at paying players to bring them in. I don't know where other clubs get the money from. It's about a long term approach, that's something we are absolutely convinced will benefit us.

"What we have found is that many club's sides are getting older and older in terms of cricketers and we have got to fight against other interests to get people here, so we have to have those young players pushing for first team cricket."

The aim is to win the top division within the next three to five years said Green, who hopes the players stick by the club and coach Rob Ferley who is in his debut season at Wells.

"It's always been a three-year to five-year plan to win the Premier Division, obviously that's more difficult now we are in Division One," he said.

"Being relegated from the league is nothing to do with Rob's situation. Every other team has been relegated at some point.

"It's a very tough division, we have had four fights for relegation in recent years.

"Rob is certainly looking to be with us next year, he is fully committed to getting us promoted next year."

While the league table makes uncomfortable viewing with Wells finishing bottom, there was more to be taken from the side's two cup runs.

"We have had two good cup runs, getting to the last sixteen in the ECB knockout and the semi finals in the CCC but clearly the league has not been good enough - to be relegated is disappointing. We hope to bounce back next year and to retain all of our players."

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Seeing stars
Play boasts a stellar cast

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Mon to Sat, September 17-22
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

AN all-star cast will perform the Olivier Award-winning show The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice at The Orchard.

Starring Coronation Street's Beverley Callard, The X Factor's Ray Quinn and sitcom star Joe McGann, the show will bring tears and laughter.

The story, like the hit film, is set up north and follows the life of shy Little Voice, played by Jess Robinson, who spends most of her time immersed in her late father's record collection while perfecting her astonishing impersonations.

Encouraged by electrician Billy (Quinn) and the hapless talent scout Ray Say (McGann), Little Voice heads for stardom. Or does she? There are songs from divas such as Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland.

An orchestra you can join
Fiddles of fun

Deal Maritime Folk Festival
Fri to Sun, September 14-16
01304 370220
dealmaritimefolkfestival.org

THE 16th Deal Maritime Folk Festival promises to pack the town with music and dance.

The festival has been running in many guises since 1996 with its mission to showcase the varied traditions of folk and world music.

New in this year's list of events will be the Festival Folk Orchestra, a pop-up orchestra created over the weekend at two workshops – any musician of any ability and with any instrument will be welcome.

The orchestra will then be performing at the Astor's Sunday concert.

Headline acts during the weekend include BBC Radio Two folk-award-winner Brendan Power, fiddle sensations Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll and a top folk songwriter in the shape of Ron Trueman-Border.



Introducing fip-fok
It's all go for CoCo

The Marlowe Studio, Canterbury
Friday, September 28
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

HOT new Kent band CoCo And The Butterfields will play The Marlowe Studio next month.

The special gig will celebrate the launch of their debut EP, which has already attracted interest from music critics and fans alike.

Band members Tom Twyman, Dulcima Showan, Jamie Smith, Micah Hyson and James Todd are pioneers of a new music genre: the crossover of hip-hop, folk and pop – or fip-fok.

Since meeting on the Canterbury busking circuit a year ago, the group have won national acclaim and won the UK Live And Unsigned competition, having performed to a sell-out audience at the O2 last month.

Dickens man Down Under
Mr Micawber

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, September 14
www.trinitytheatre.net

IN celebration of the Charles Dickens bicentennial, Katapult Productions is touring a play featuring one of the writer's most loved characters, Wilkins Micawber Esquire.

In a new show, ever-optimistic Mr Micawber bids farewell to his native setting alongside David Copperfield and takes his family to Australia, confident their lives will change for the better.

However, more than keen optimism is needed to survive in the new world that is Melbourne in 1855 as Micawber's life becomes shrouded in mystery.

Katapult, whose spoof Dick Barton Special Agent was a hit across the county, can be expected to put on another top show with Mr Micawber.









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YOUR WEEKEND

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Visual art
Performance and film

Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable
01843 596 194
www.whitstablebiennale.com

THE Whitstable Biennale continues its festival of contemporary visual art.

The show of ambitious and experimental new works in film and performance will run until Sunday, September 16.

Packed with live performances, screenings, exhibitions, talks and events, the Biennale presents three programmes across the three weekends of the festival, exploring the overlap between film and performance.

The programme includes performances at stages around the harbour area, which is also an open invitation for impromptu performances.

There will also be a series of events for youngsters, with Gareth Moore's set of short children's films created by international artists. For a full list of events, look online for times and locations.



Carry on camp
Julian Clary's stage return

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Saturday, September 22
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

HE has been a TV presenter, stand-up comedian and now a Big Brother contestant, but Julian Clary will get back to his roots with a new live show at Folkestone this month.

After leaving the reality show, Clary will return to his home county of Kent with Position Vacant: Apply Within and he says he won't be leaving town empty-handed.

The master of camp is scouring the land in search of love, promising to leave "no straight unturned".

With questionnaires and games, the show is sure to entertain the Folkestone audience before it sets off across the UK.

The show is recommended for people aged 16 and over. Tickets are priced at £16.



The world of crafting
From textiles to bees

Hever Castle, near Edenbridge
Friday to Sunday, September 14-16
01732 865224
www.hevercastle.co.uk

HEVER Castle hosts the 2012 Country Life event celebrating the skills and traditions of a rich variety of talented craftspeople.

You can enjoy demonstrations of country crafts ranging from trug-making, wood-turning and wood-carving to ceramics and felt-making.

Spinners, weavers and dyers will explain how to produce textiles and you can get advice on how to keep hens and bees. To whet your appetite further, there will be a mouthwatering selection of food and drink to sample.

There will also be a display of patchwork quilts and wall-hangings by members of The Quilters' Guild as well as art, photography, lace-making and a portrait-painter.

Broadside!
Cavalier ready for gun duty

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Saturday, September 15
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham's very own Second World War destroyer HMS Cavalier will mark her own salute to the 40s by firing a broadside using all three of her 4.5-inch guns at midday on Saturday, September 15.

The shots will mark the first day of the annual Salute To The '40s event and will also be the first broadsides fired from an operational Royal Naval ship since HMS Zulu on her return home from overseas in 1984.

Three rounds will be fired from A, B and Y guns on board Cavalier by the Historic Naval Gun Crew, a group of re-enactor volunteers who have assisted in restoring the ship's guns and who will be bringing the ship to life over the weekend festival.







Return of the Chiefs

Kaiser bout that then!

Winter Gardens, Margate
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
Tickets on sale now
01843 292795/296111

INDIE group Kaiser Chiefs have confirmed that they will once again play in Kent.

Best known for songs like I Predict A Riot, Oh My Gosh and Ruby, the band will be heading to Margate as part of their UK tour for 2012-13, which has already seen them play Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

The tour follows the band's re-emergence this year with their new album, The Future Is Medieval.

This is another big band to confirm a show at the Thanet venue, following the sell-out Blur gig this summer and last month's announcement that Professor Green will play later this year.

Tickets are priced at £25.

A fairy, but not as you know it

Monstrous...

Old Town, Margate
07874 230005
www.margatemonstrosities.com
enquiries@margatemonstrosities.com

MARGATE'S fantastical Museum of Monstrosities has a stunning new exhibit.

The Bidadari Berbulu has a unique mix of physiological features, including the flying capabilities of a dragonfly and the sharp vision of a spider.

Originating in Malaysia, its name translates as Hairy Sprite... or you might know it as a fairy. But this is no Tinkerbell!

The bizarre exhibit joins such other oddities as a mermaid skeleton and a dragon's egg.

Forthcoming events include art-and-design tours and workshops for people looking to break into the world of film and theatre effects.

The museum is open from 11am-5pm until the end of September.





History focus

Get medieval for weekend

Bodiam Castle, near Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, September 8
01580 830196

SWAT up on your historical knowledge this weekend with a study day featuring the experts of Bodiam Castle.

On Saturday between 10am and 4pm, St Giles Church at Bodiam will host four guest lecturers speaking on the theme of medieval rural society.

Christopher Whittick will speak on manors and manorial custom in medieval times, while Dr Christopher Briggs will talk about medieval English peasants and the law.

Dr John Hare will speak on Battle Abbey, a medieval lord and his estates, while Lesley Boatwright is to talk medieval beliefs in miracles, including those attributed to Henry VI.

The event costs £40 per person and includes lunch.

Street fair

Join cavemen and Queen Vic

Addington Street, Ramsgate
Sunday, September 9
01843 582192
r.mortlock@lineone.net

QUEEN Victoria – or at least someone dressed to look very much like her – will be one of the star attractions at this year's Addington Street historical fair in Ramsgate.

The fair has been running for 25 years, but the holding of this year's event had looked unlikely until friends Carol Mortlock and Phyllis Leaney decided the show must go on.

Now visitors can look forward to street entertainers (including Punch and Judy), stalls hosted by anyone from cavemen to 1950s folk, face-painters and live music.

The area will be closed to traffic for the event, which runs from 10am to 4pm, when the raffle will be drawn.

The fair is being supported by Elephant Windows, while all money raised will be given to Kent Air Ambulance.

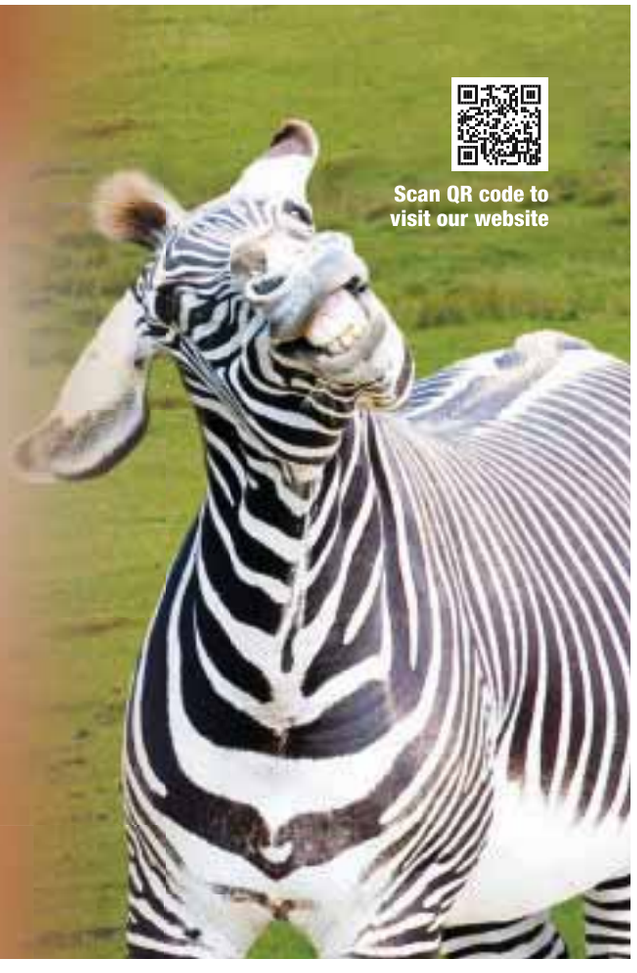
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Price increase reverses fortunes of the market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE average price of a UK home rose by a surprising 1.3 per cent in August, confounding gloomy predictions from market analysts.

It was the biggest monthly increase in two-and-a-half years, according to the figures from Nationwide building society.

The increase reversed the falls of the previous two months and was significantly higher than any other monthly hike since January 2010.

The lender described the increase as "a little surprising" but said it would be wrong to read too much into one month's data.

The three-month figure shows a 0.5 per cent drop in prices, while the annual figures showed a drop of 0.7 per cent.

The society's chief economist, Robert Gardner, said the figures "provide evidence that conditions remain fairly stable".

He said: "This may be explained by the surprising resilience evident in the UK labour market, with further increases in employment in recent months, even though the UK economy has remained in recession."

Nationwide's index is based on values when a mortgage is approved by the lender, which are then weighted to produce the price of what is considered to be a typical house. This is in contrast to Land Registry figures, which are based on sale prices.

Mr Gardner said monthly price changes had been influenced by a number of one-off factors in 2012, such as the end of the stamp-duty holiday for first-time buyers.



STEADYING: The August rise reverses the trend of the previous three months

He said: "These factors cannot be controlled by the usual process of seasonal adjustment."

While prices have been up and down throughout the year, they remain well below the level they reached before the property market was so drastically hit by the recession.

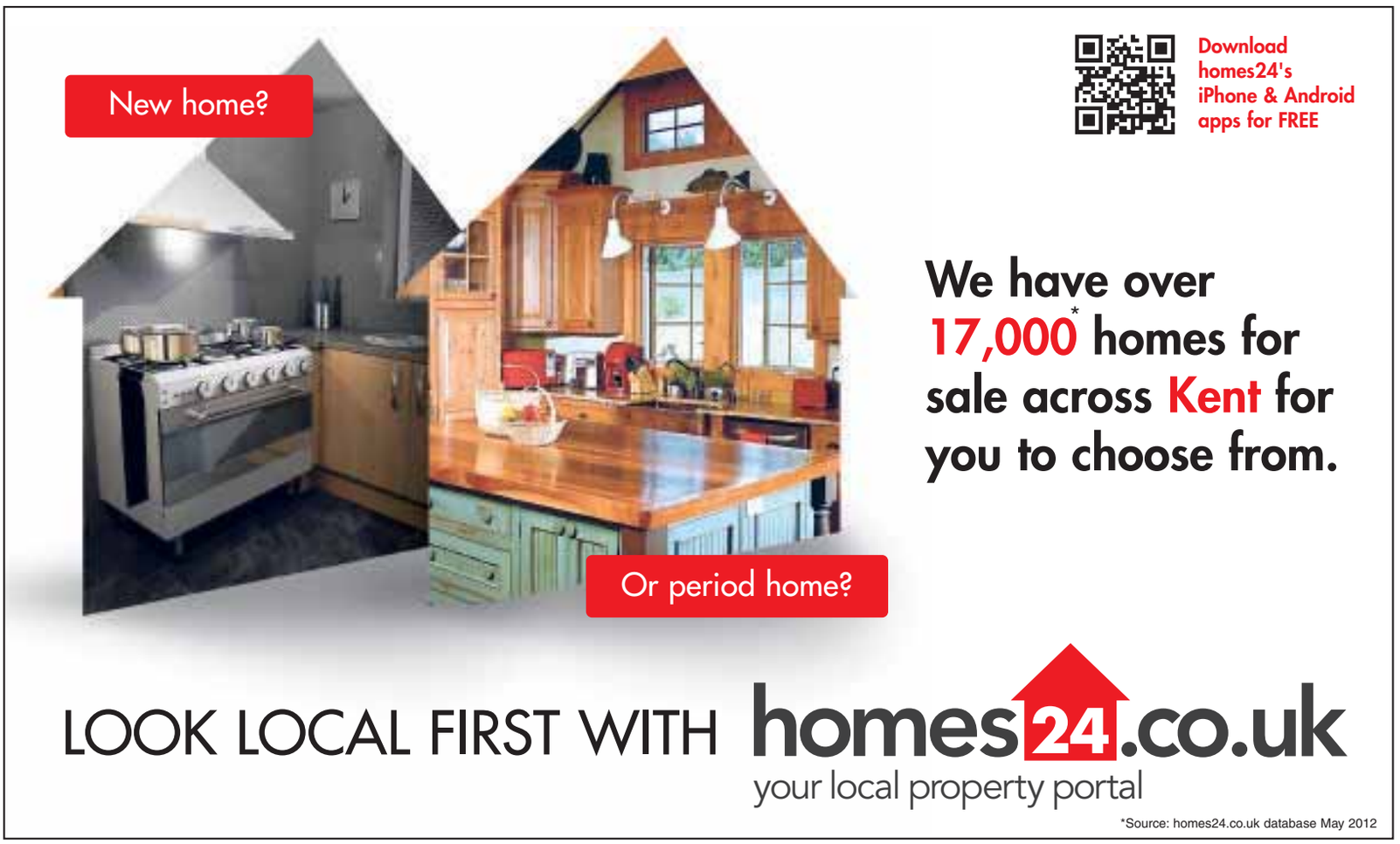
According to Nationwide's latest analysis market, the average price of a UK home stands at £164,729, still 11 per cent down on the peak price of £186,044 recorded in October 2007 – the year before the economic downturn became apparent.

Regional variations continue to have an effect on figures. The price of homes across Kent has not been hit as hard by the decline as elsewhere in Britain. London continues to be the most resilient and the North East and South West among the most hard hit.

Trends towards London workers opting to live outside the capital have boosted the value of Kent homes, with factors such as the high-speed rail link and improved communications by road to the north of the county and Sheppey adding to the attractiveness of the county's properties.

However, activity within the market is still an area of concern. It remains low, with the average number of mortgages approved each month running at below 50,000 – about half of the level seen between 2005 and 2007.

Nationwide says first-time buyers who are still entering the market are putting an average of 29 per cent of their take-home pay towards mortgage repayments, compared with 40 per cent before the financial crisis – showing an increased level of awareness that the jobs market is still insecure.



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Horam, East Sussex
£160,000
Large single plot with planning for a house of approximately 1,900 sq ft with woodlands providing a high degree of privacy



Peacehaven, East Sussex
Guide Price £950,000
Site measuring approximately ¾ acre with sea views available subject to planning



Greatstone, Kent
£150,000
Single building plot with planning for a 2/3 bedroom house with direct access to the beach and stunning sea views



Berwick, East Sussex
£1million
Exceptional opportunity to purchase a 17 acre site with planning for a property of approximately 8,850 sq ft with swimming pool



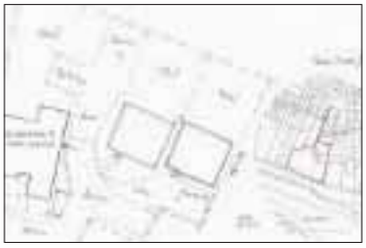
East Sutton, Kent
£150,000
Unusual opportunity with planning to replace existing commercial building with 2 bedroom single storey dwelling for holiday accomm.



East Malling
£250,000
Single plot with planning permission for a detached 3 bed chalet style property which will benefit from far reaching view



Five Ashes
Guide Price £500,000
Renovation or redevelopment project, subject to planning, of a detached property set in grounds of approximately 7 acres



Greenhithe, Kent
£350,000
Existing bungalow with planning refused for two dwelling and pending for one dwelling available subject to planning being granted



Chatham, Kent
£100,000
Existing maisonette with planning to convert into 2 x 2 bed apartments located in the town centre within a short walk from the seafront



Westdene, Brighton
Offers Invited
Site with a part built 3 bedroom detached Mediterranean style property for completion



Willingdon, East Sussex
Guide Price £550,000
Site with planning for the retention of the existing property and the erection of two detached chalet properties



Deal, Kent
Guide Price £360,000
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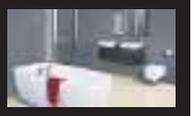
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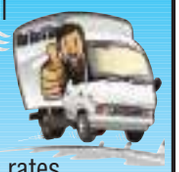


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- Subaru knocks cash off flagship model
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Hyundai accelerates back into the coupé market

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



MERCEDES-BENZ CLS SHOOTING BRAKE

Price: £49,360
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Audi A6 Avant

Mercedes-Benz shoots the estate class to new heights

HAVING created the trend for premium estates way back in 1978 with the legendary W123T, it's good to see Mercedes-Benz giving the type fresh impetus.

The newcomer, priced from £49,360, is based on the elegant CLS four-door coupé and has to be the coolest estate car on the market.

Not that you are allowed to call it an estate, which has always been viewed by the industry as a downmarket term; M-B has chosen to label this low-slung example as the CLS Shooting Brake, reviving a rather archaic word used in 19th-century Britain to describe a vehicle for carrying the posh to and from game-shooting.

Indeed, when the German marque launched its tailgated version of the W123 saloon, it simply added the letter 'T' to stand for touring and transport – the word 'estate' seemingly verboten. Of course, there is a price to be paid for the Shooting Brake's sensuous lines, so it is more a lifestyle estate – the type designed to suggest a sporting and country life rather than meet its needs.

So ultimate load capacity is not as good as M-B's classic load-lugger, the E-Class Estate, which offers a boot capacity of 695 litres with rear seats up and a cavernous 1,950 with them down. The Shooting Brake offers 590 and 1,550 respectively but does come with a powered tailgate, split/fold rear seats, self-levelling rear air suspension and, unlike its coupé sister, five seats.

And maybe that load space is not so challenged anyway when you check out key rivals to the E-Class, the BMW 5 Series Touring (560/1,670 litres) and Audi A6 Avant (565/1,680 litres).

Merc salespeople will no doubt argue that if you want a lifestyle wagon anyway, why worry about a few lost litres of space when you can have extra litres of style?

Turning now to litres of power, the new car is offered with two extremes in a range headed by the fairly silly V8 AMG version, which also enjoys its own label as the 'Sport Shooting Brake'.

Priced from £83,030, this narrowly escapes the maximum road tax bracket, but its 235g/km of CO_2 emissions will still cost you £460 a year and your environmentalist neighbours' sniffs of disdain, while you will also struggle to get anywhere near the official combined figure of 28mpg.

Most sales will involve the two real-world diesels, then: the entry model CLS 250 CDI BlueEfficiency producing 204bhp, with a combined fuel consumption of 53.3 mpg and CO_2 emissions of 139 g/km; and the CLS 350 CDI BlueEfficiency (from £53,000) with 265bhp, combined fuel consumption of 47.1 mpg, and 161 g/km CO_2. All versions have a seven-speed auto transmission as standard.

The new CLS Shooting Brake range is available to order now for November delivery.



GOOD-LOOKING: Space is sacrificed for style but, honestly, the Shooting Brake is such a classy model that you probably won't mind

DON'T LIKE

... having to find fault. This looks like a sure-footed move by Mercedes-Benz after seeing its premium estate business nibbled away.

NOT SURE

... too many will go for the bonkers AMG V8 model, which will be juicy and a bit brash for some, but the model oozes class generally.

REALLY LIKE

... how Mercedes-Benz has looked at the premium estate sector it created and come up with a fresh alternative. Look out for copies!

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VAUXHALL



Get your Citigo in go-faster stripes

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE'S more to the new Skoda Citigo than meets the eye.

First off, for a cheap car – from £7,630 for the three-door version and £7,980 for the five-door – it ticks lots of boxes and will make many would-be car-buyers ask 'What more do I want?'. Secondly, it's a clone, with marginal differences from its sister models, the VW Up and Seat Mii.

Does this matter? Well, such 'badge engineering' didn't work well for British Leyland, but there is little profit in small cars so it's not hard to see why VW took this approach rather than build individual cars on a shared platform as it does with the Skoda Fabia, Seat Ibiza and VW Polo, for instance.

Besides, there is already a precedent on the market in the form of the Toyota Aygo/Citroën C1/Peugeot 107 clone, which the Citigo and its sisters upstage considerably.

As the cheapest of the three newcomers, though, the Citigo is least likely to suffer from the badge-engineering jibe, while the Up – excellent though the packaging is – might seem like an expensive badge-buying exercise.

Skoda has also come up with a great name for its new sixth-model line; Citigo describes exactly what this car is about, not that it isn't also capable of hitting the motorway.

Admittedly, there are big expanses of bare metal and cheap plastic, but it all looks like it will last, while the 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine is extremely flexible.

It's offered with a 60PS (59bhp) or 75PS (74bhp) output, but you would struggle to notice the difference in town, since low-down pulling power is roughly the same. Only when the 75PS stretches its little legs does extra power higher up the range become evident.

So if you can't afford the dearer 75PS models (from £9,860), don't worry too much; on the evidence of our 60PS mid-range SE spec car, the little engine revs well. Allied with a crisp gear-change and steering combination, the Citigo can be hustled around nicely.

The engine can be raucous – although that's part of the fun in cut-and-thrust traffic – but it settles surprisingly well on the motorway.

Low emissions means some versions are exempt from road tax, while most are zero in year one with £20/year thereafter. An average of 60+mpg is possible on all versions.

The big news is the enormous cabin; it's as much a masterpiece of cubic engineering as the original 1960s Mini, with excellent leg, head and elbow room for such a small car.

It has four seatbelts, but you wonder if Skoda and its sister brands have been too modest here since you could squeeze three in the back.

Nor is this room at the expense of boot space, which is phenomenal and a major embarrassment to the rival Aygo/107/C1 – specifying a spare wheel incurs very little penalty on space.

The dashboard is logical and stowage facilities are great; the centre console has a cup-holder with slotted flexible rubber lid to hold a smartphone angled towards the driver.

There is some evidence of cost-cutting such as the absence of passenger electric window operation from the driver's side. It might have been more sensible to mount both switches on the centre console as in the Fiat Panda.

However, the test car showed that for very little extra cash, the Citigo can be personalised and tricked out to look smart and even sporty. Ours wore black alloys and go-faster stripes – one broad, one nose to tail, and extra ones on the flanks. Come on, you have to go for those...

SKODA CITIGO SE 3-DR: PRICE £8,530



COOL: For a small car, the Citigo has certainly got a lot of get up and go with go-faster stripes and stylish black alloys

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero yr 1)
Best rival:	Fiat 500 Twin Air

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS



Mazda6 goes Skyactiv

ON a roll after its all-new CX-5 SUV, Mazda unveils its third-generation Mazda6 flagship model using even more of the marque's new Skyactiv environmental technology.

The handsome '6', arriving late 2012/early 2013, includes a fuel/alternator/engine-saving brake energy regeneration system that comes into play whenever the driver takes his foot off the accelerator.



Six grand off Scooby star

SUBARU is offering its high-performance WRX STI model at a knock-down price of £26,995 – a £6,000 discount.

A finance offer means the STI can be financed at under £300 a month, too. The car is also available with a further £1,599 upgrade to the 2.5-litre horizontally-opposed, four-cylinder Boxer engine, creating an all-wheel-drive flagship, the WRX STI 340R.



Hurry for the Giulietta deal

SEPTEMBER 30 marks the end of a £1,000 down + zero finance deal on Alfa Romeo's driver-pleasing Giulietta family hatch.

Though it looks and handles like a coupé, the Giulietta (from £17,660) manages to be a practical family car and also comes with peace of mind: a five-year warranty, five-year complimentary servicing plan and EuroNCAP's maximum five-star safety rating.

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Veloster Turbo – the real deal?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



HYUNDAI did not re-enter the coupé sector this year with quite the speed implied by the chosen car – the Veloster.

But the second stage is about to ignite: the beefier and more highly specified Veloster Turbo SE launches from Monday, September 24, at £21,995 – the standard car starts at £18,000.

The original's direct injection 138bhp 1.6-litre engine now has a turbocharger to raise output to a more racy 185bhp, and with a bit more low-down punch – just what the low-slung and distinctive Veloster needed. This allows a top speed of 133mph and acceleration from 0-62mph in 8.4 seconds.

The six-speed gearbox has wider gear ratios, and there's more for those drivers who liked the Veloster's looks but didn't think it could walk the talk; tweaked dampers make the car more taut and closer to British and European tastes.

Despite its sporting upsurge, though, the Turbo SE delivers not unreasonable CO_2 emissions of 157g/km and an official 40.9mpg on the combined cycle.

Hyundai reckons the new version can attack the likes of the VW Scirocco 1.4TSI and Astra GTC 1.6i 16v VVT Turbo – it also has an edge.

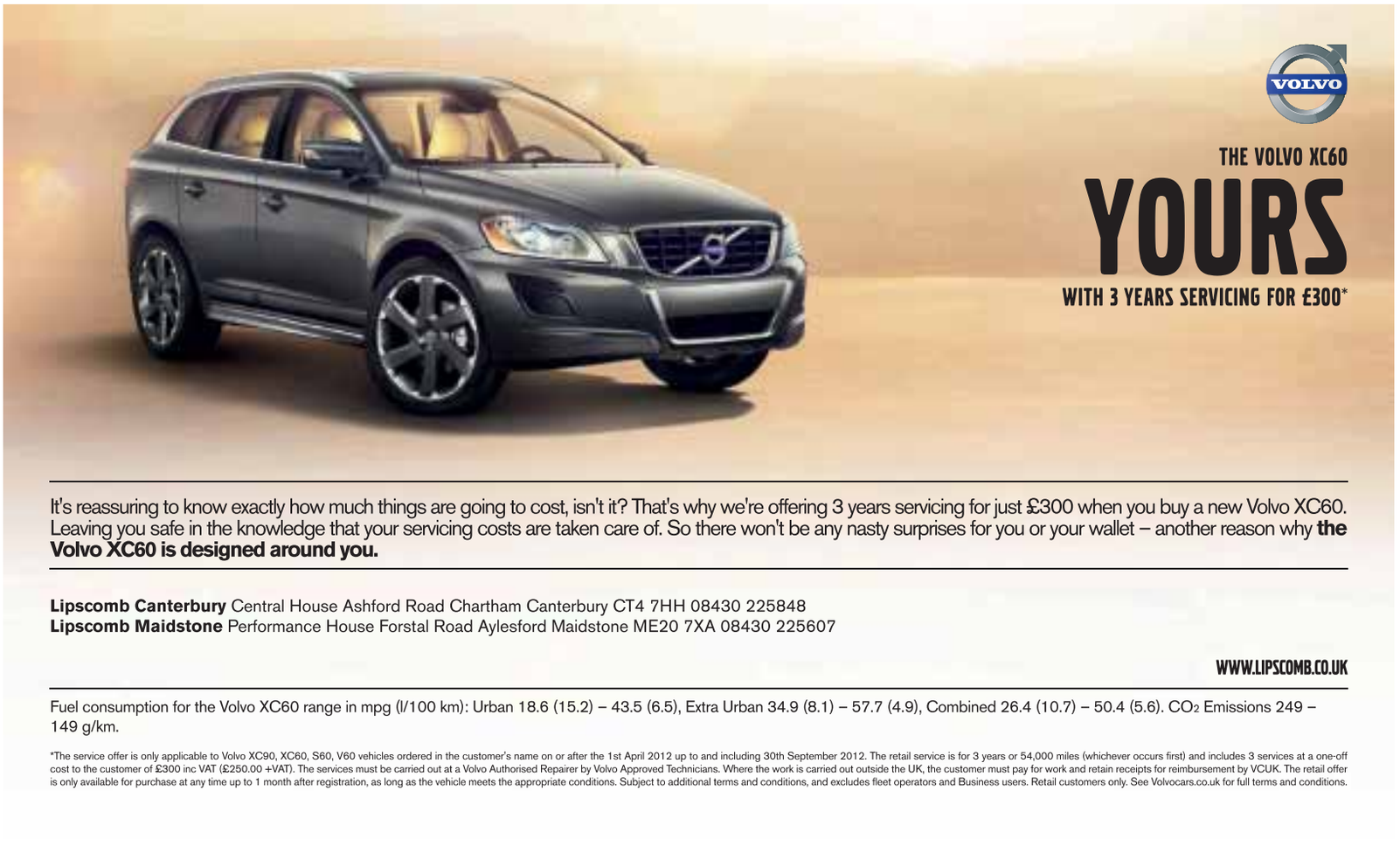
For the Turbo SE retains the standard car's unique door layout: two front doors plus a single rear door to allow easier access to the rear seats. Unlike the Mini Clubman (estate), which only has the third door on the offside for the UK, this rear door is fitted on the passenger side for this country but on the other side for left-hand-drive markets. This makes it a highly practical coupé for families with small children, but the Turbo SE also has also been beefed up visually to go with its enhanced performance.

The front bumper, radiator grille and front fog lights are new, while the rear benefits from a revised bumper, new fog-lamp design and round twin exhausts and diffuser.

A longer, wider rear spoiler with LED brake-light, 18-inch alloys and a red Turbo nameplate on the bootlid add to the sporting allure.

Inside, new leather seats with grey panels – also featuring 'Turbo' on the front ones – echo the extra exterior muscle.

Hyundai now has something to pick up and run with the baton dropped when it left the coupé market in 2009.



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Pictures: GARETH FULLER/PA



WINNERS: Colbourne, Storey and Zanardi, above, raced at Brands Hatch

PARALYMPICS

Dreams come true for Paralympians as Kent gets a taste of Games

By Greg Miles
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THE excitement, the emotion, and the drama – it was all there.

Brands Hatch didn't fail to thrill and excite in four days of Paralympic road-cycling action this week at the sun-soaked track.

From Brit Sarah Storey taking her all-time Gold medal tally to double figures, to former racing driver Alex Zanardi holding his handbike aloft in celebration, it proved a truly inspirational event for those packed into the grandstand and spectators on the surrounding roads.

Italian Zanardi had previously been around the track in his days as a racing driver, twice finishing on the podium, but tragedy struck in 2001 when he lost both of his legs in a race in Germany. This week the 45-year-old picked up a gold in the H4 category time-trial, beating his competitor by 27 seconds.

"I worked very hard to get here," he said. "It was great to live such an experience at 45. This moment also brings a little bit of sadness for an adventure the last two years.

"When you are 20, you appreciate medals. When you are 40, you appreciate what you do every day. I enjoyed every day of training. I've had a magical adventure and this is a fantastic conclusion.

"With an engine pushing me, I didn't realise it was so hilly. It is very hard, but if I had to design a course, this is what I would have done.

"It is beautiful, hard, it suits my characteristics of an old man"

GB velodrome star Mark Colbourne, who was injured in a paragliding accident, claimed his third medal of the Games in the C1 Time Trial on Wednesday and was quick to praise the track.

"It's amazing," he said. "I know my coach wouldn't be very happy, but I'd like to go around here on a motorbike, to be honest with you – it would be great fun.

"If you look at the course, with my disability, with no hamstrings, no feet, no gluts [gluteus maximus] working – you put me on an 11 per cent hill, it's like someone's taken my batteries out. It does suit different disabilities – if your hamstrings are working, you're able to climb.

"I'm three and a half years post-operative now and they're still not firing – the gluts have almost disappeared.

"There's two sides of the coin for me, coming through my accident and having this dream – secondly, we lost my dad in February. It was a big loss for me and I feel I've done my mother proud, my daughter proud and ParalympicsGB very proud, and certainly Wales."

Sarah Storey became one of the most decorated Paralympians of all time on the same day by claiming her 10th medal. The 34-year-old from Manchester won two titles in the velodrome and added gold in the women's C5 16-kilometre time-trial.

Her Paralympic career began as a 14-year-old in Barcelona and she won five titles as a swimmer before a series of ear infections saw her turn her attentions to the bike.

Following two golds in 2008, including in the time-trial, Storey now has a hat-trick on home soil in her sixth Games and an equal number of cycling and swimming golds.

"I went into Beijing as a swimmer on a bike, almost a fish out of water. My body shape's changed a huge amount since then and now I'm firmly a cyclist," she said.

"To think I've done what I did in swimming, now on a bike, it's not sunk in at all. I'm not sure it ever will."

Picture: ADY KERRY



MEMORIES: Cook was a part of the T20 success

CRICKET

Youngsters help Kent's Cook into coaching career

SIMON Cook says he's sad to be leaving Kent but can look back with a lot of pride at what he's achieved in the last seven years.

The 35-year-old has decided to move on from the St Lawrence Ground after his contract came to an end.

Now the bowler is set to take up a career in coaching – something he has already been doing at the county with the help of his team-mates.

The former Middlesex paceman has passed his level 4 coaching award using young bowlers Matt Coles and Adam Ball as the subjects of his coursework for the last two and a half years, but coaching wasn't originally the aim.

"Coaching certainly wasn't one of the first things I thought about," he said. "It evolved from my time at Middlesex. I spent some time with the younger players and spoke to them and gave them some suggestions to help their game.

"That's the thing that's stuck with me: you can have a big impact on a younger player's game with a simple piece of advice that takes their game to the next level and helps them achieve their dream.

"I take a lot of enjoyment out of seeing the players I have worked with doing well.

"I will go away and do some coaching for the ICC or the ECB, maybe. I'm going to take a bit of time and see what happens."

Cook joined Kent in 2005 but began informal discussions a year earlier with the then Kent coach Paul Farbrace at a combined counties game with Middlesex and Kent playing Derbyshire.

"We ended up having a conversation on the boundary edge just talking about life and what was happening. We weren't really talking about contracts and it kind of went from there.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Kent. I live in Canterbury – I've bought a house here. I really like it because it's a family club and there's a family atmosphere around the town.

"I look back with a lot of pride at the fact we won the Twenty20 in 2007. We were the dominant team in one-day cricket, reaching many finals and really being the stand-out one-day side at that time."

He said he almost stayed under the terms of a new contract that would have seen him help the second side, while being available for the first team when needed, but it wasn't to be.

"That's sport, as they say. It's always sad to leave something that's been a good part of your life," he said. "I look back with fond memories of my time at Kent, but I also have to look forward."

He has been restricted to fewer first-team opportunities this season but has captained the second XI in recent months.

His 13-year first-class career has included 141 matches in which he has taken 342 wickets at an average of 32.14. He also scored 2,577 useful lower-order runs, including seven fifties.

FOOTBALL

Players must earn right to succeed, says Hythe boss

By Greg Miles
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THERE'S no time to sit and take stock at Hythe Town.

Scott Porter is keen to push his side further than their groundbreaking year last term – their first in the Ryman One South – when they finished an impressive eighth, while also clinching the Kent Senior Cup over Dartford.

Throw in a healthy FA Cup to the First Round proper the year before and it's no surprise the expectations are for more of the same or better, despite the club being a relative newcomer at this level.

"I drill it into the players each day that we need to better ourselves," said Porter, who's in his fifth year in charge. "Last year was a stepping stone, we can't sit back and look at what we have done.

"Last year was a massive learning curve. If you make mistakes you get punished at this level, whereas you don't in the Kent league."

He admitted it was important to remember the 1-0 win over Dartford in the cup final at the end of last season, but also to move on from it and push for their aim of the play-offs this season.

"When things like that happen you need to remember them, that was a great night, but we have got a lot of hard work to do," he said. "Everyone remembers that and they want to make it happen again, but they have got to earn that right.

"We have always built on the season before – we did it in my first season after coming third in the Kent League and then we won it the second year.



MEMORIES: The Kent Senior Cup win capped a memorable season but boss Scott Porter wants more

"We are going for the play-offs – the expectation is at the club and out of it. The people at the club are very hard-working, and very honest – we are all in it together, from the secretary to the chairman."

It's been a difficult start so far which has left Porter wanting more from his side.

"We've been up and down. We all know where we have under-achieved and we're all working hard to put it right," he said.

"It's so hard for a Kent side to get out of this league as there are so many derby matches."

FOOTBALL

Pulman wants to repay the Rams after a regretful exit

IAN Pulman has rejoined Ramsgate after cutting ties with Whitstable Town and admits he regrets leaving in the first place.

The 29-year-old striker only joined Justin Luchford's side in the summer, but after just a few weeks of the season he has re-joined Ramsgate.

He spent last season with Eastbourne Borough, and re-joined the Rams in mid-season, but opted to play for the Oystermen this term only to change his mind this week to start his third spell at Southwood.

He said: "Firstly, I would just like to say how happy I am to be back and can't wait to start scoring goals for Ramsgate again. I believe Tim, Darren and Steve are really building something here, getting a great squad together and really trying to push on. I can't wait to get going, and repay the chairman, fans, players and management for leaving in the first place, a decision I sincerely regret."

Whitstable manager Luchford said he knew conversations have been ongoing over the last week or two regarding the move.



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

GONE: Pulman has left Whitstable

"Although the official approach came in last Friday, I know that conversations have been ongoing for a week or two," he said.

"What it does do is highlight the fact that we are not a money making machine that goes beyond our means.

"We have to meet the club's philosophy of not spending beyond our means and we will continue to do that.

"We are not in a position to compete with some of the other clubs who have more resources than us I'm afraid."

CRICKET

Captain Steer looking to bounce back to top flight

CANTERBURY captain Paul Steer believes his side are capable of bouncing straight back following their relegation from the Premier Division.

Their stint in the county's top league lasted just one season, but Steer feels the club's players are all the more experienced for it.

And it's that experience he is counting on pushing them to promotion next term if the squad can stay together.

"When we go up again we will be far better equipped," he said.

He pointed to Sibton Park as the act to follow after they were crowned champions of Division One at the first attempt after relegation from the Premier Division.

"Sibton Park did it last year, and they've bounced straight back, they know how tough it will be," he said. "Every club that has gone up has had this period of adjustment, but it's all been a bit late for us. We didn't win a game until half way through the season. Generally teams that go up don't start very quickly and we fell into that trap. We are certainly all better players."

He is hoping that the team will stick together, but he knows some players may depart with financial rewards on offer in the top flight.

"By proving they can play at that level they have put themselves in the shop window," he said. "I would like to think we could retain the majority of our players to put us in a great position to bounce back."



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

DOWN: Slow start costs Canterbury

FOOTBALL



WINNER: Chris Smith signed for Swindon Town

Professional contract up for grabs for goalie who's blind in one eye

A GOALKEEPER from Canterbury who is blind in one eye has entered a national competition to win a professional contract.

Ryan Wilkins was born with a defect which leaves him unable to see out of his left eye, but it hasn't stopped him pursuing his love of football.

And now the 20-year-old harbours hopes of winning a contract with either Swindon Town or Leyton Orient in the Samsung Win a Pro Contract competition.

First he will have to make it through regional trials before going to the final part of the competition with the winner bagging a year-long contract at either of the League One clubs.

Last year's winner, Chris Smith, signed for Swindon Town in February and made his first team debut against Bradford in May showing there is still plenty of talent out there that professional clubs haven't picked up.

The Kent University student has been plying his trade for the last few years in the Herne Bay and Whitstable league.

"I play in goal which most people might think would be difficult for me, but I have never let it hold me back," he said.

"Despite being-partially sighted I have good depth perception and I have better reflexes on my left side.

"I have been told I am good goalie but I have never been given the chance to play at a high level.

"I would say my sense of touch has been heightened, I'm a musician as well and I came into that quite easily.

"Ironically 70 per cent of my saves are on my left side, I don't know if it makes sense, there might be a strange explanation for it.

"I have had to adapt my footwork around it, I'm a lot more mobile than other keepers because I have to keep adjusting to see what's on my left side. I turn my head a lot more, and keep my right foot forward."

He had trials for AFC Wimbledon when he was a youngster but was told his eyesight would hold him back.

"I was told they wouldn't allow me in on medical grounds," he said. "I was told it would be too much of a problem, that was a long time ago.

"I was gutted, but I have got better. Most people don't end up with a contract so I don't have a right to cry about it."

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